

SELECT TALES

O F

Count Hamilton,

Author of the *LIFE* and *MÉMOIRS* of
the Count De GRAMMONT.

Translated from the FRENCH.

IN TWO VOLUMES.

VOL. II.



LONDON:

Printed for J. BURD, near the Temple-Gate,
Fleet-Street. MDCCLX.

SELECT TALES

Count Hamilton

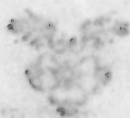
Author of the Life and Memoirs of

the Count De Grammont

CONTENTS

Translated from the French

OF THE



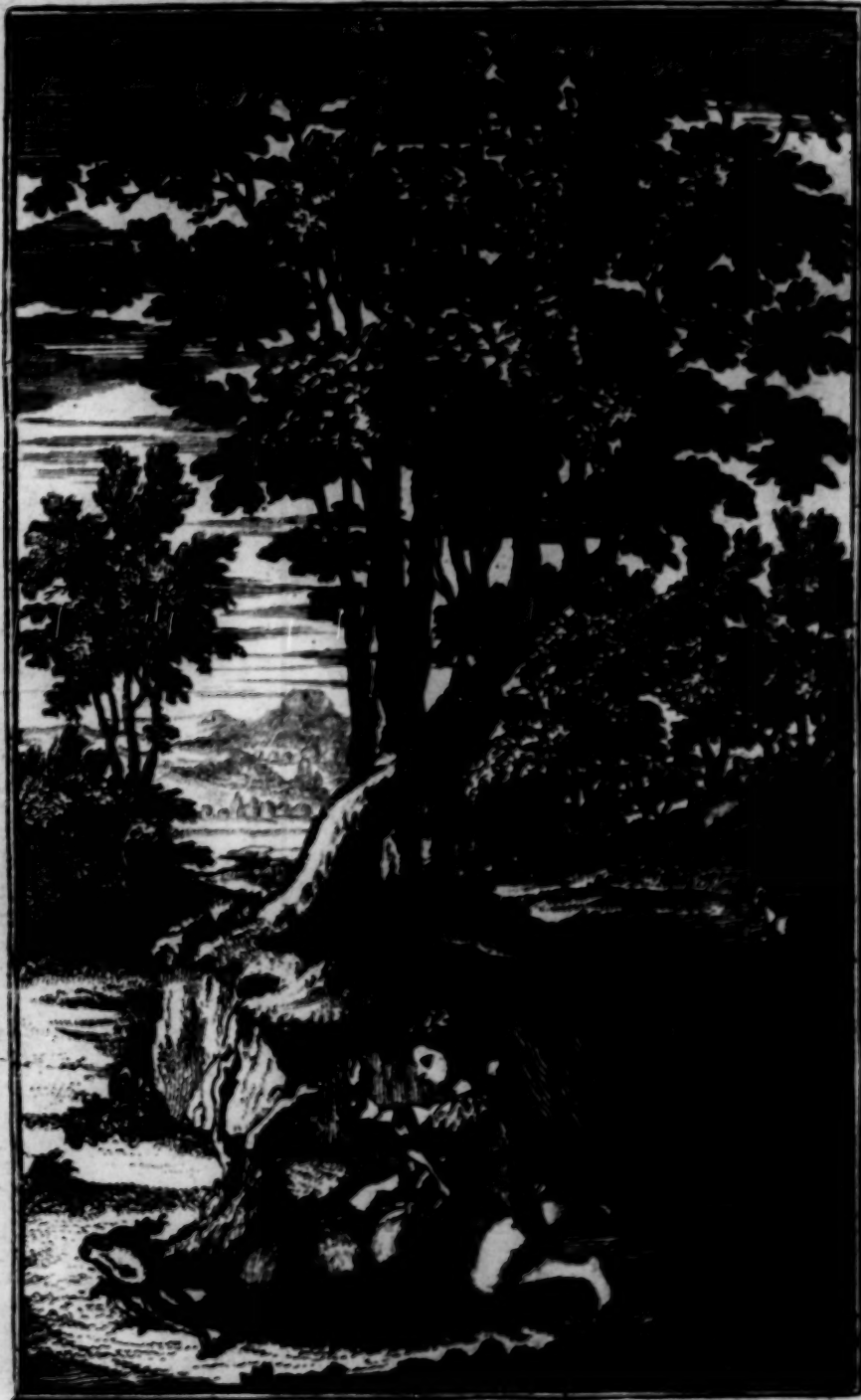
LONDON: Printed for J. Bury, near the Temple-Gate, Fleet-Street. MDCCLX.

**T H E
C O N T E N T S
O F T H E
S E C O N D V O L U M E .**

THE history of the four Facardins. Page 1
The history of Zeneyde. 154

VOL II.

The





THE
HISTORY
OF THE
Four FACARDINS.

 E left the prince of Trebizonde, on the point of telling his adventures, by order of the grand Sultan his lord. This prince of Trebizonde was a complete person, valiant, ingenious, a great talker, and sometimes apt to boast a little, as you will find in the course of a recital, which he began in this manner,

One must not relate fables to your sublime, and always august, majesty; as for me, I, who profess a scrupulous adherence to truth, am going, after the example of

the Sultaneſs your ſpouſe, to relate adventures as true as they would appear fabulous, if any, beſide myſelf had boaſted to have gone through them.

I would not ſpeak of my birth, but to inform you that my mother, the moſt ſuperſtitious princeſs of her time, had took it into her head that the happineſs or unhappineſs of my life depended on the name ſhe ſhould give me, and not liking any of thoſe by which my anceſtors were called, ſhe was juſt on the point of ſending to the oracle, to aſk it to give me a name, when a parrot that ſhe was very fond of, took upon her to repeat two or three times Facardin. There needed no more to determine her to honour me with this ſurname. Let us paſs on to that part of my life which is diſtinguiſhed by the events, of which you have aſked me to give you a recital.

I was gone from your court ſome days before the revolution, which happened on account of the firſt empreſs your ſpouſe; I learnt the news of it, when I was two days journey from my territories, and I take the liberty to tell you, that I then diſapproved your departure, as much as I have done your conduct, ſince your return; for would it not have been better not to have married again, than to take ſuch precautions
againſt

against the future infidelity of a wife, as not to give her an opportunity to be unfaithful, that is to say, to cut off her head the day after the nuptials.

I did not make any longer stay at Trebizonde than was necessary to keep my vassals, your subjects, in obedience; for they were all ready to rise against the cruelty of an edict, which the people imagined would be a precedent to other sovereigns. I assured them very strongly, that I was not come to make any alteration in their customs; and having made them give me a list of the tournaments which had been published throughout the world for the present year, with an account of the adventures the most impracticable in the universe; I went away with a design to render the whimsical name which had been given me, as celebrated as it seemed to me to be unheard of before, and I am certain, I can say, without self-flattery, that I have not succeeded badly.

I took measures very different from those which adventures generally take, for in the place of a squire to carry my arms and to relate my exploits, I took a secretary to write them; and never poor secretary had so much work on his hands.

Fortune seconded my boldness throughout; beauties yielded to my merit, and

heroes to my valour; nevertheless, I was tired of being always loved without ever being able to love; and if I had not found every day some monster to combat, or some enchantment, to destroy, by way of amusement, I don't know what would have become of me.

My secretary had naturally a good share of sense, which he had much improved by being in my service, he endeavoured to comfort me by telling me there were still greater misfortunes in life than those of which I complained; may the happy Facardin never experience them, and may fortune be favourable enough to him, to let him go safe out of this dangerous climate, and the fertile fields of the kingdom of Astracan. It was noon day, and we were in the middle of a shady and delicious forest, and I was on the point of choosing a large tree to set myself down under the shade, and to ask my secretary some questions about Astracan, when I saw advance towards us two men mounted on lofty camels: As soon as the first drew near us, he engaged all my attention by his air and gesture. His shape and stature were the most noble and easy that could be seen, and his visage so charming, that my secretary himself, who sees me every day, could not help taking notice

tice of the surprise and admiration that so fine a figure caused in me. We had time enough to examine him; for having stopped opposite to us without discovering us, he took his helmet from the man who followed him, and instead of covering himself with it as I thought he intended, he sighed, regarded tenderly a bird glittering all over with gold and precious stones which I took for an eagle, and which with his wings shaded the helmet. After having sometime looked on it, he kissed it respectfully, and giving back the helmet to his 'squire, he passed very near us, still buried in so profound a reverie, that it hindered his seeing us.

It was then I made a reflexion on what my secretary had told me, and I apprehended that a very amorous man could not be without disquiet, if he found in his way a rival formed as this stranger. I could not overcome the curiosity I had to learn who he was; and my secretary having civilly stopped his 'squire to inquire of him, returned quite amazed, to tell me that his name was Facardin.

Facardin, my stars, cried I, with astonishment! At this exclamation, the handsome chevalier who thought that I called him, turned the head of his camel

towards me, and asked me what I wanted of him ? Nothing, replied I, but to know if it is possible your name can be Facardin. It is but too true, replied he, and I wish that this cursed name had not been inquired after so far off, to render me unhappy ; since I attribute a part of the disgraces which have happened to me, to the secret fatality which seems attached to this name. May one dare, said I, ask what these misfortunes may be. You shall hear them, says he, very frankly. I should be the most constant of all men, if I was not unfortunate in love, which I have been sensible of for some time ; nevertheless I cannot complain of being drawn into any intercourse with the sex, since I have never been beloved. It is true, the most adorable of mortals, and the only one who ever regarded me without aversion, appeared to relent in my favour ; but alas ! this was in putting me to a trial, the remembrance of which strikes me with horror. Let us talk no more of it, says he, and return to that which I was speaking to you of. It is impossible my cares, my complaisance, and assiduity, notwithstanding my deficiency in other recommendations, could be every where rejected, if this whimsical name did not carry some evil along with it. What, says

says I, is it possible that a man made as you are can offer the homage of his heart without success ; and that a man of so much sense can imagine that the name you have received can be the cause of it ? It is but too true, replied he, and to convince you of it, I need only tell you of an adventure which happened to me in Denmark ; but such a man as you ought to have some better employment than to give his attention to the recital of affronts which love has caused me. I assured him that I had nothing better to do at that time than to hear him, and to give him some little hopes of a change in his fortune ; Seigneur, said I to him, think that a name is fortunate or unfortunate according as it is either well or ill borne. I do not know from what country you come, but the beauties who dwell there must be savage, since you tell me such marvellous things of their fierceness and rigour.

I am called Facardin as well as you, and to show you that the name is of no signification, I have found a hundred beauties in my way, and some of them the most beautiful, yet not one of them ever cost me more than a sigh. My secretary will give you the list, and there you will find their addresses. Go and see them, and let us

hear what you'll say at your return. Alas! replied the handsome incognito, when you find them more gentle than lambs, to me they will be tygresses : I who have inspired all whom I have seen with aversion, except the old woman on mount Atlas, who herself inspires with aversion those who had the least delicacy and were the most susceptible of love : It is this I must acquaint you of, since you would have me enjoy some moments audience. After his speaking these words we alighted, and while our people gathered pomegranates and medlars to refresh the camels, having chose a shady place in the forest for us to sit down in, Facardin the stranger went on in the following manner. As I made a vow not to discover myself while I saw my heart unworthily susceptible of the first impressions, and to be myself the unhappy butt of more susceptible beauties, dispence with my giving you an account of my birth, and telling you the places whither I went to signalize myself by some famous exploits in the world : It will suffice to tell you the first object of my exploits with which I opened the campaign, was a design to render myself worthy to aspire to the conquest of Mouffeline the Serious, princess of Astracan ; but although she be as you know,
or

or as fame has declared her, the most perfect of all mortals ; it was not so much the curiosity of seeing her, or the hopes of possessing her, that engaged me in this adventure, as the difficulties, or to speak more properly, the impossibility of the adventure. My heart at this happy time panted for nothing but glory, and was in the utmost indolence in respect to love. My travels hitherto have been distinguished by only two events worth your attention. The first is the adventure of the Isle of Lyons, which produced that of mount Atlas, and you shall hear each of them.

Two days journey from this famous mountain, upon the top of which the poets assure us that heaven and all the train of stars rest, a vast forest extends almost to the sea shore. This forest is so full of deer that it would surprisè you ; there are so many, and such large flocks of them, that it is difficult to get through the forest. At the passage that leads out of this forest the inhabitants at the foot of the mountain told us, that the lions came sometimes from the deserts all about to hunt in this forest, and after having destroyed the deer of all kind, they went about depopulating the neighbouring country of men, women, and children ; that the people in this their ex-

treme misery having had recourse to the enchanter Caramoussal, who dwelt on the top of the mountain : He had by his enchantments sent all the lions into an island that I could see from that shore, where the sea washes the foot of the mountain ; that during the exile of the lions the deer were returned, but that they had multiplied so much, that the desolation was almost as great as in the time of the lions, because these vast flocks, I had remarked in passing the forests, spread themselves throughout and destroyed the corn of the country ; that to remedy this disorder, they made two or three hunting matches every year in the Island of the Lions, not so much to disturb or destroy them, but to catch as many as they could, and to let them loose in the forest for diversion : They also said that the time of the first hunting match would be in two days, and there was no doubt I should have some diversion. To any other but to an adventurer a lion hunting would not have been proposed for a diversion ; but I consented to it with joy.

The shore opposite the Island of Lions was the rendezvous of the hunters. This island appeared to me of a large extent, very wild, and covered all over with an extreme thick wood ; I was surprised at the
equi-

equipage attending this chace ; I expected to find dogs of strength, and a number of hunters armed with darts, javelins, arrows, and stakes ; but instead of that I found on the banks twenty men and twenty young girls very well made ; the men led each of them a stag or deer ; and every girl carried a cock upon her finger ; they had some strings in the shallops we embarked in. As soon as we came near the island, we heard the most frightful roarings, and such horrid howlings, that my 'squire, who is nevertheless a brave soldier, changed countenance, without any of our nymphs being moved at it. The side of the river was all lined with these noble lions who waited for our landing. I was in pain about how this descent was to be made in presence of so formidable a detachment ; but three of our shallops coming to shore before the others, let go three stags, upon which all the lions run after them, and left us a free and easy passage into their country. When we were there we entered into the thickest part of the forest, where while the hunters stretched out their strings, the young girls put hoods, such as they hoodwink hawks with, on their cocks. Scarcely were the cords stretched out, behind which they had placed the deer, but

our lions returned furiously upon us; there were twenty-four, all being hungry as I thought; but as we did not choose to have but two or three at a time, one of our nymphs immediately took the hood from one of the cocks and pulled two or three times a feather from his tail: That part of the forest where we were appeared so dark that the cock imagined he saw day breaking, and begun to crow with all his might to salute it; the lions were so frightened at it, that they all disappeared in an instant, except him who was entangled in the cord. They put him in one of our shallops with one of the hunters, and bound him with the same cord that the cock that crowed was tied with; although the lion was bound in such a manner as not to be able to do any mischief, they embarked a deer in the same shallop to amuse him during the passage. But I must tell you, Seigneur, this hunting, which appeared to me as new as it was diverting, lasted till every hunter had brought back his lion, girl, and cock. I would stay till the last, and charged myself with the post of honour, because it was the most dangerous, and so put myself in the rear. I made my 'squire embark in the last shallop which went away, except that which they left me.

As

As I was a stranger they had left for me the fiercest cock, and the girl least afraid. This girl began to give me instructions for our retreat ; but as to me who blushed for shame, to see that the cocks carried all the glory of the expedition, I desired her not to let the cock crow that I might enter the lists against some of the lions, but if there should come many on me while I was engaged with one of their companions, I told her she might come time enough to my succour to disengage me from an unequal a combat : I saw by her countenance she did not very well approve of it ; and just as she was going to answer me, the lions came to make their last charge. I advanced sword in hand, and moved some steps to meet them. They had at their head the most formidable of all the lions ; his eyes stared, his hair stood on end, and it so happened that this lion was as deaf as a beetle ; the young girl frightened at his enormous size, set her cock a crowing, but it had so hoarse and piercing a voice, that it almost split my head. All the lions, except him of whom I speak, seized with a panick fear, fell down by the side of one another as they run away. My nymph and the cock squalled out violently and began to be out of hope ; and the noise they made

made appeared to me more grievous than the presence of the lion. The beginning of our combat merited, without vanity, spectators more tranquil and more illustrious than those we had. I had already drawn blood in many places, he had in his turn made a scratch, which beginning near the right ear, descended in a line quite down to the extremity of my left heel. I had no buckler any more than my adversary, but he had a tail which was of more service to him than his claws : As it grew late I took my sword in both hands to put an end to the dispute before night ; my enemy, who according to all appearances had the same design, got upon his hind legs, and opened a throat so large, that it seems beyond belief ! The girl was so frightened that she let go the cock, the lion quitted me to run after it, and I quitted the girl to run after the lion : I presently overtook him, but not time enough to save the poor cock whom he had already taken, and swallowed him in our sight, as one would swallow a grain of cachou. This affront animated me with a fresh resentment, I was so transported with anger, that without taking notice of the situation the lion had put himself in, I cut off his right foot which he held out as a sign that he

he would come to a parley: The earth was soaked with a stream of blood which ran from his wound. I was always on my guard, not doubting but his fury would make him redouble his efforts against me, but he thought of nothing less than vengeance, on the contrary leaning himself against a tree to support himself, he looked on me with sorrow, and said, ah, Facardin!

I began to pity him, and I was just going to endeavour to succour him, when the cries of the girl called me to her assistance. She held with all her might the boat that had been left for us; the cord had been untied during our combat, which she perceiving, as it was our only resource she made wonderful efforts to prevent its getting away: When I was near her, seeing that I brought back the shallop to the shore; instead of embarking in it, she began to be extremely grieved, I said I would rather die than abandon the poor lion, who had spoke to me, in the state I had left him; that I was going to find out a method to put him on the continent. and to give him all the succour he was in need of. She, grieved at a proposition which appeared to her extravagant, conjured me on both her knees not to expose her and myself, for an old dead lion to the fury of all the living

ing lions of this Isle; she might say what she would: I went to the place where I left him, but I searched for him all round to no purpose.

I re-embarked then, with shame enough, for not being able as the others had done, to bring back a lion, but the affliction of her, who accompanied me, cannot be expressed; she said, she had been dishonoured by the loss of her cock, that it was a lasting disgrace on all her family, and that she could not think of surviving such an infamy. While I did all I could to comfort her in a despair which appeared whimsical enough to me, we arrived on the shore of mount Atlas. The night near closed in, I had lost a great deal of blood, and was ready to die with thirst, I expected that my squire, whom I had taken care to send back, in spite of his desiring otherwise, would in return have some regard to me, and that I should find him at the foot of the mountain, or on the shore to receive me; but I found no body there; the girl whom I brought back giving into despair more and more, took at last a resolution to climb to the top of the mountain and implore succour of Caramoussal, or to fling herself off it, in case the magician was not favourable to her. I followed her as long

as I could, to persuade her to lay aside at least this last project; but having lost her in the gloominess which prevented my seeing her in by-paths she took,, after having wandered a long time among the rocks, always ascending them, climbing, I sat myself down at last in the smoothest place I could find, resolving there to pass the night, I no sooner began to take a little repose, when I thought I heard at some distance, the agreeable murmur of some stream, which formed a cascade among the rocks of this solitude. I was so very thirsty, that without regard to my weakness, and less still to the dangers of the precipices, I went toward the place from whence the noise came. I perceived that I made towards it, but it had been difficult for me to have got at it; if instead of tormenting myself, and looking on every side, I had not seen above the place where I was a feeble ray of light; I took that for my guide, and as I approached it, this light seemed to increase, and I thought I heard a noise of spinning wheels, such as women spin thread with. I was not deceived, and by the light of two very large flambeaux, placed on each side a miserable cottage, saw two withered arms, with two hands like them, which through two chinks contrived
in

in the door of this cottage, turned this spinning-wheel round, and spun with a better grace than one could expect from them; after having some time reflected on this uncommon way of spinning of thread, I thrust open the door without knocking at it, urged by the extreme necessity I was in. The door easily opened, and I saw the spinster, whose whole person, exactly answering the sample I had seen of it, was like an old skin of parchment pasted on a death's head; she was naked to the waist, and the driest of all carcases, was not so bad as this miserable nudity. I turned away from looking at it to ask for something to drink. Nothing will be wanting to you in these places, says she, provided you resist your desire, and overcome your aversion. At these words embracing me before I was aware of her, she made me sit down by her, and seeing my clothes all bloody, she started up, and quite alarmed at the danger, I did not think myself in, you would have been dead if the succour I am about to give you had been deferred and an hour. She undressed me while she kept talking to me in this manner, and searched my wounds from top to bottom; she embraced me most affectionately between her wretched arms, and kissed from time to

to time the places she wiped. She perceived the mortal distaste that I had of her tenderness and favours, and in spite of these marks of my aversion continually rubbing me with an essence which perfumed all the cottage; senseless wretch, said she to me, if you knew the treasure you refuse, and which I see very well, you will loose; how great would be your eagerness and thankfulness.

I found myself so refreshed, so restored, and relieved from this first application, that I saw very well that a second would restore me to a perfect health. I wanted nothing now to make me easy, but to quench my thirst, and to get away from such an hostess; I begged of her to have regard to my most pressing want, since the assistance she was about to give me would be useless, if she let me miserably perish with thirst. You must then be put to a trial, says she to me, which I very well see, you will be unable to go through; follow me.

She had the greatest difficulty in the world to rise up, she was so decrepit, and her figure filled me with so much aversion, that I had not resolution enough to assist her in supporting herself. She bent almost double, and notwithstanding she leaned on a stick, I thought she would never have
crawled

crawled out of this first room; which was the most wretched, shattered place, that could be in the world; the second seemed a little more decent; the third larger still; and well oanamented; but the last room I followed into, was the most superb, the most magnificent, and the best furnished that possibly could be, it seemed rather the fabulous abode of some fairy, than the apartment of a mortal. There was nothing to be seen throughout, but brocades, exquisite paintings, and rich furniture, an elegant toilette, ornamented with all kind of the finest trinkets on one side, on the other, a bed embroidered with oriental pearls, and gold from China, seemed to be intended for the use of some goddess; for near the toilette I saw a person in an undress, who had the appearance of an empress of eighteen years of age.

We had been a long time in getting to this apartment; for besides the poor old creature's going so very slow, she shut the door of every room, before she let me enter, and putting her two hands across each door, she set to spinning for some moments, as she had done the first time, this delay increased my thirst; nevertheless I mitigated its violence, in giving all my attention, to the objects, which offered

ferred themselves in this last room. The old woman interrupted this attention; and taking me by the hand: Let us go, says she, to the fountain, what you look at is made to kindle fires, and you only want water to quench them; follow me, I am going to bring you to yourself; there was no occasion to say any any thing more; this was but fifty steps from this fine apartment, and it was the water of this fountain, which I had heard the noise of, and which I had looked for to no purpose.

As to my part, in the indifference I was then in, and tormented with the ardour of an excessive thirst, I would have preferred three glasses of clear water to the three graces; wherefore thrusting away her hand with which she held me, rudely enough, I rushed toward the fountain, and set to swallow the water with such eagerness, that I was afraid I should see the rock dry before I had quenched my thirst. The old woman to whom I had not thought proper to sacrifice this pleasure, went home while I was drinking, and according to appearances was in a better humour, wherefore I was not under any great uneasiness; I found myself in a sweet composedness, and inclinable to sleep, and I indulged it without going any further. It was broad day-light
when

when I awaked ; I was surpris'd to find myself in the most frightful place that could be in the world ; I turned myself round on every side without being able to comprehend how I could get to this desert, nor how I should get out of it, the fountain where I had drank ran out from the point of a rock which seem'd detached from the rest of the mountain, and I found myself exactly on this point ; I saw the top of the cottage, and of the enchanted palace I had so much admir'd during night ; but the place where I lay was separated from it by so deep a precipice, that my hair stood on end every time I look'd at it. All the other sides were surrounded by steep rocks, which so far from affording me a way, seem'd rather as if they were ready to fall upon me ; as I was very certain that I was not transported hither through the middle of the air, I was resolute in the dangerous search after some outlet, I found one, at length, after I had despair'd of it. It was the entry of a cavern, which appear'd very gloomy and very deep, and which seem'd rather the retreat of bears, than a fortunate road from this solitude, to places less horrible ; I attempted it however at hazard, and taking my sword in my hand, I descended for a long while in this dark cavern,

vern, without any hopes of finding any other way to go out of it, but the way I came in ; but after a thousand difficulties, I was at length sensible that the ground rose gradually higher, I perceived a weak ray of light, which led me to the place where the day-light penetrated into this subterranean abyss. This other mouth of the cavern was very different from that by which I entered. It was a pretty spacious grotto, embellished with shells, and some marble busts, a bow of polished steel hung glittering on one side of this grotto ; on the other side I saw a quiver enriched with gold and precious stones full of arrows ; a large ebony case ornamented with ivory, hung down from the cieling in the middle of the grotto ; I was so anxious to get clear of the bad road I had been in, that I did not stay to make reflexions upon what I saw, I hurried out of this grotto, and I passed just by something that glittered which had been let fall about two steps from the door : It was a shoe, the buckle of which was composed of four diamonds, the most perfect and brilliant I had ever seen ; but this shoe was so well made, and seemed so little, that I did not think at all about the inestimable value of its buckle. As I had read in our poets, how Pallas made the
earth

earth to tremble, and that she shook the forests as she went along, and that Juno made but one stride from Ida to the Island of Samos, I doubted its being the shoe of a goddess; but I was determined, if possible, to find out the mortal whose foot was worthy of such a shoe.

I took it along with me without any hopes of its being long in my possession, as I did not doubt but it belonged to her, whose hunting equipage I had seen in the grotto, or else to the other invisible nymph, whose toilet I saw in one of the old woman's apartments, I was at a loss whether I should go in search of her, or whether I should stay near the grotto till she came to seek for what I had found, while my attention was drawn on every side by groanings and lamentations, which seemed to come from a place very high, as if it was the cry of women; I climbed up there as fast as I possibly could, for since meeting with the shoe, I perceived my heart grown wonderfully tender toward the sex, who had till then looked on them with indifference. She who was in this grievous affliction, was no other than the nymph who had had the cock; as soon as she saw me, she flung herself on her knees to me, and begged me to run her through the body with my sword. I

was

was not disposed to do her this favour, for I already felt some inclination toward her. I lifted her up respectfully, and desiring to sit down at her feet and hear her story, after I had assured her I was ready to hazard my life to free her from the embarrassment I saw her in, she viewed me from head to foot, as if she had never seen me, and turning herself sideways, Get further from me, says she, for you seem so disagreeable, that I cannot bear you near me. I obeyed with submission, and the impertinent thing turning away her head that she might not see me while she spoke, addressed me in this manner. Before I acquaint you with the cause of my grief, which perhaps may appear ridiculous to you, you must know that the cocks which you have seen, are not trusted but to girls belonging to such, who, as well as myself, are distinguished by their birth or merit; there is in our province three public hunting matches every year, like to that unfortunate hunting you saw yesterday, and the girls who by the crowing of their cocks have brought twelve lions back in four years, have for their spouse the lover who hath been their humble servant during these four years. They see their lovers night and day during this time; but it is as much as our life is worth

to favour them before the taking of the twelve lions : If the cock escapes, it is a sign there has been some little weakness in our conduct, however it is not capital, in case the cock is found again ; but if he is not found at the end of three days, it is a judged a convincing proof of a criminal commerce ; and upon this proof the girl is buried quite alive. There's the subject of my despair, my cock can never return again, since this cursed lion hath devoured him before my eyes. Miserable wretch that I am ! Why did he not devour me also ! Why did I not die before I knew the most amiable of all men ? Or why were not all the men that I have known as hateful as you ? Another might have been provoked at the cruel things she said to my face ; but the more I was ill treated by her, the more marvellous I found her, and I sought out for terms to describe to her my despair, and my growing tenderness, when her lover unexpectedly appeared. I recollected him to be one of our hunters of the preceding day ; she recollected him also ; for she run to him with open arms overjoyed, she bid him to see once again the light of his dear eyes, before she was deprived of that of the day. This lover was very flat-nosed, his bolom was of the colour of slate, and those

those dear eyes of which she spoke, were like the Chinese eyes, of no other use but just to peep out of. After her embracing him in the most tender manner in the world in my presence, he told her that being in doubt about her misfortune, he had provided a boat, which lay ready at the foot of the mountain, and that he would carry her away without any obstacle, provided I would secure them, I who had reduced them to this extremity, only for one hour, from that savage old woman. And who is that savage of an old woman? says I to him. You will know her but too soon, says he to me, for she is looking every where to find her lady's shoe, which I see you have. As soon as he had spoken these words, he took his well-beloved under the arm, and run toward the sea with extreme swiftness. There immediately arose in me a kind of distrust, but as soon as their backs were turned, I thought no more about it. There happened so many things to me in such a little time upon this mountain, that I thought myself in a dream, nevertheless I was not come to the end; it is certain you do dream, says the impatient Dinarzade interrupting him; we asked you for a recital of your own adventures, which you ought to have told us very succinctly

in the conjuncture we are in ; and instead of that you set about telling us anothers, with such frivolous circumstances, as are tiresome. . . . And what signifies it to you, you wretch you ? cried the Sultan to her ; what adventures he tells us ? provided they please me, and the recital lasts only one night, have you any thing better to do than to hear them ? Go on, Facardin, says he, and do not mind the impatience of these creatures, who are always tired when they do not talk themselves.

Dinarzade shrugged up her shoulders ; the beautiful sultaneß, who had lain a thousand nights one after another without sleeping, to hear tales, lift up her eyes ; and Facardin of Trebizonde resumed his discourse : I was, if I remember right, interrupted at that place of the recital of the stranger, where I was speaking of its appearing like a dream, when reflecting on the many events which happened in so small a space of time ; I descended down again, says he, to the entrance of the grotto, from whence I went out in the morning, but instead of taking the path by which I ascended, I followed another, which conducted me by a troublesome by-way to the old woman's cottage ; its door was open, I saw the wheels, but they did not go round,

I did not perceive in myself now so much aversion to the old woman, whose figure had so disgusted me ; I resolved to go in to see her, to see the wonders of this pretty apartment ; I kept this beautiful shoe in my hand, and continually looked upon it, and kissed it, as I should have done the portrait of a mistress I passionately loved.

As I was just upon entering into the cottage, there came out a kind of a giant, armed with a stout club, and hairy from head to foot ; his arrival surprised me, for he had much less humanity in his gesture, and affability in his looks, than the lion I had fought with the day before. The first thing that he did when he saw me, was to take his club in both hands, and to gnash his teeth like a bear. The next was to thank his stars that the thief who had taken the two shoes belonging to the lady, had fell into his hands ; that it must be me who had taken the first, since I was now in possession of the other, and he assured me that he would by this time have sprinkled the earth with that small matter of brains I was possessed of, if the old woman his sovereign had not reserved the punishment of my crimes for torments entirely of a new invention. I thought that it was the voice of some bull who made me this compli-

ment, and with the same tone he ordered me to deliver him the shoe, and to follow him. I could take it away with more ease, says he, than I ask you, but it is the orders of my sovereign, that you restore it on your knees in my presence. If it is the orders of your sovereign, says I to him, go and assure her, on my part, that neither you, nor all the monsters of your race, shall make me restore a shoe which I adore, and which I did not steal. At these words I clapped my hand to my sword, seeing this dromedary of a savage lift up his club to knock me down. He had prodigious strength, but as he was not very nimble, and that he was transported with fury, I avoided his blows, the least of which shattered the rocks, and overturned the oaks which were near me, however I drew blood from him every time he missed me. I thought I should have come off without losing any myself, if my destiny had not subjected me to some scratches in these places of prodigies ; I did not perceive that the monster had a nail on his great toe, which might have passed for one of the tusks of the boar of Erimantes ; but I was sensible of it at last ; for stooping down to avoid a blow of the club which he seemed to be aiming at me, he took his
 oppor-

opportunity to give me a slash, not inferior to that of a lion. This dishonour put me into such a passion, that with a furious back stroke I cut the leg of that foot with which he had given me this pretty wound ; he fell like a tower, and shook the earth by his fall ; I flung myself upon him, with a design to cleave this villainous bear's head, which had so angered me, when a voice from the cottage cried out to me, valiant Chevalier, do not kill my savage. I obeyed, and leaving him there, I entered into the place from whence I thought this voice came, resolved to present to the old woman the shoe, which they could not take from me by force, and to let her see that I had not taken it away as a thief ; I imagined it belonged to her daughter, or to some niece whose apartment and clothes I had seen the preceding night.

But though I went through all the apartments of this dwelling, I did not find one person ; and in the fine apartment, where I had seen the toilet, I only saw a part of the clothes, I had seen the first time ; I returned in order to get some explanation about this enchantment, from the savage ; but I could no where find him. Although I had lost a great deal of blood, ; I was not at all weakened by it ; I only found

myself, pressed with hunger, equal to what I was with the thirst, which caused me to come to this mountain. I was desirous to seek, where withal to satisfy it there, where I had found the means of quenching my thirst; but the door shut itself upon me, without all my efforts being able to open it. My only resource was the grotto, I sought it through a thousand rugged and crooked paths, without being able to discover it, and perhaps I should never have found it, if the smell of some meat they seemed to be dressing, had not conducted me thither. I could not follow a more agreeable guide in the condition I was in; I went by the favour of this assistance, and when I arrived there I was confirmed more and more that I was in the midst of a dream. I was dazzled with the beautiful figure, I saw in this grotto; it was a nymph in a hunting dress, she was reclining on a rich couch; and in this posture I took her to be the goddess of love, who had borrowed the habit of Diana to follow some new Adonis; her neck was uncovered on one side, the uncovered side, was worth, to my liking, all the treasures in the world; her petticoat was open, and fastened above the knee, by a clasp of diamonds, such as those which composed the buckle of this fine shoe,

shoe, the leg which this opening discovered, was most exquisitely formed; she presented before me this fine leg, and casting her eyes upon me: However my heart may be divided, says she, between the aversion I have for your person, and the esteem I have of your merit, I will offer you the means of being happy yourself, and contributing to my happiness; you have got my shoe, says she, and your rashness in having dared to touch it, is in some sort blotted out, by the valour with which you have defended it; if you had given it up, when it was demanded of you, there would have been an end of you, and both our hopes; put the shoe on my foot, that you may be convinced it belongs to me. I eagerly, though with respect, obeyed; and during this service which I rendered her, I was so transported that I did not know what I did. After having put on this shoe with the greatest facility in the world, she ordered me to take it off, and asked me what it was I sought after in this grotto. I had but just then recollected myself, and I said to her in a tender and affectionate manner, that I was ready to die with hunger, just as if I had told her I was ready to die for love. And why says she, all these inoble wants? You went yesterday

day to the old woman to drink, and to day, do you come to me, only to eat? That's nothing; but let us see, before we proceed further, if you merit the misfortune occasioned by your drinking, and if you are worthy of the glory, you will have, after having eat heartily? In short, let us see, if you are worthy of the fortune, which your destiny seem to promise you? Take this bow, and see how you can bend it. I took it, not doubting, but I could compass this affair as easily as I had put on the shoe; but it made the sweat run down from me in great drops, before I succeeded. As soon as I had done it, the string of the bow formed so harmonious a sound, that nothing could equal it, but the sound I heard the moment the fine cage opened, from whence a large bird went out which I had never seen before; but he flew out in so blustering a manner that I was startled at it; the nymph surpris'd at the adventure which I had completed, viewed me from head to foot; but presently turning away her eyes, as from some object of horror; take one of the arrows out of this quiver, says she to me, go out of the grotto, cast up your eyes, and endeavour to pierce with this arrow what you shall see in the air; I went out, and thought I

saw

saw a fly a great way above my head; as, after having looked for some time I saw nothing else, I let fly the arrow with all my might, I quickly lost sight of it, and at the time I thought it in the middle region of the air, it was so long a coming down, I saw it fall at my feet, with a great cock, which it had pierced through.

The nymph run to it, drew out the arrow, and let go the cock, who presently taking to his wings, as if nothing ailed him, soared out of sight. After this exploit, the beautiful huntress looking upon me with a kind of respect, although with the same aversion; indeed, says she, you deserve that I should intrust you with the care of my deliverance; but if it must be that I owe it to you, how shall I resolve to spend my days with a man so little amiable, and so worthy to be beloved? Take my shoe, take good care of it; go through all the earth, till you have found a foot which it will fit, a woman who will have you, or else a cock, who flies as high as that you saw. When you have brought me one of these wonders, there will remain nothing but to have the good graces of the old woman to have mine, without this last condition, and one or other of the first, I shall always be unhappy, and you will never be

C 6

happy.

happy. But before you go away in search of these adventures, you must be tried first. You must remember, I believe, that notwithstanding some vow you made last night, not to drink, you have done it, therefore whatever horror you may have at what is served before you, eat of it without my ordering you.

I asked for nothing better, not doubting, but with the excessive hunger I was tormented, they could not serve any thing to a person so delicate, so well made, and so charming, that would disgust me; but I thought I should have swooned away, when I saw the dish they presented to me; you would never guess *Seigneur Chevalier*, the detestable ragout it was; wherefore I must tell you, that they served up to me the leg of the savage without forgetting the foot, and the frightful nail it was garnished with. My hair stood on end, my stomach rose, and I went to go out, to avoid seeing this odious object, when the nymph without speaking to me, fetched a great sigh, and gave me some looks of pity mixed with indignation, that determined me, I snatched a bit with my hands, and then chewed it with my teeth, I wanted to retire after this effort, protesting to her that I should have no need of eating these four days; she
seemed

seemed to me quite softened, her looks interchanged with mine, and I was so transported with it, that I eat, still, another bit; she approached to me, and said to me, leaning against my shoulder that she would not beg of me to finish it, but without that I had done nothing. The charm takes effect, said she, looking upon me tenderly; the first enchantment is about being dissipated, I feel it in my mind; if you will persevere to the end, you shall not have far to go to find out a person who loves you; but if you quit this place, and break off your repast without finishing it, you will be more disagreeable than ever. All her words sunk into my heart, and mounting up to my head, they animated my resolution but did not at all increase my appetite; nevertheless, though there was victuals enough before me to serve ten famished persons, I was resolved to leave none of it, since that was the condition of this trial, and set myself very dutifully to swallow down the whole, or nobly to pluck out the eyes of my divinity. It was, in the middle, of this magnanimous resolution that my cursed 'squire, who, according to appearances, had been seeking me a long while, made the rock round about resound with the name of Facardin. The nymph grew pale upon

upon it, and seeing that it was me, that that was sought after, she flung herself into the subterranean passage of the grotto, and left me more confounded, more surprised, and in a greater consternation, than it is possible for me to express; I had seen her relent in my favour; the wound the savage had given me was cured while I was eating his leg. The presence of the most beautiful creature in the world, had supported me, against the disgust of this trial, the things she had told me, invigorated, and gave me hopes, and I did not very well comprehend, how her good-will toward me was changed all at once, by only having heard my name. I quitted the horrible repast, I had began, I ran to the entrance of the subterranean passage, where she went to save herself; but as soon as I got there, in order to follow her, a violent wind not only prevented my access to it, but it overtook me with such violence, that it lifted me off the ground, and carried me away from the grotto; the door shut itself as soon as I got out; this door had two holes, like the door of the old woman; two arms whiter than snow, came through these holes, a spinning-wheel of ebony, ornamented with gold, was placed opposite

opposite them, and the spinning was begun again by this fair one. I did not doubt, but the divinity I had seen was the daughter of the old woman, and that the amusement of spinning was very much to the taste of this enchanted family. I advanced to go and fling myself on my knees, before the nymph of whom I saw nothing but her arms to beg of her to open the door to me, and to receive me, in pity, while my 'squire, having at length discovered me, set himself to bawl again, louder than ever, calling me by my name; the beautiful hands presently drew in; the spinning-wheel disappeared, and from the grotto, the door of which burst open, the same wind rushed out, and drove us both to that part of the mountain, from whence I had seen in the night the first glimmerings of light which had conducted me to the dwelling of the old woman.

After we had come a little to ourselves, my 'squire told me that I had escaped well, and begged of me to descend faster, and to save myself while I still had it in my power. And what method do you think to take, says he, to climb down this cursed mountain, full of witches and enchantments, to escape the pursuit of these people? I waited for you upon the bank till
night

night was far advanced, and thinking that you might land in some other place, while I was waiting to no purpose in that, I made to the next hamlet to seek you there. There it was I heard fine news indeed ! for I was told that you had seduced or forced the girl they had left you with ; that her cock was lost ; that they had seen you land together, and that you had both gained the top of the mountain to fly from the pursuits of justice ; but that all the inhabitants of the country would take arms the next day to apprehend you both, and that you should not escape their vengeance. In truth, all the populace of the neighbouring places assembled at break of day ; a council was held, troops marched, and dispersing themselves on all sides, a part of this multitude was sent to invest the foot of the mountain to block up your passage, while the other ascended it, dispersing themselves through all the paths, to take you. I thought you lost, my dear master. They put me in a fright, but I did not give an alarm, and they assured me very strongly, that they would do me the honour to make me share the punishment they intended for you. I could not be easy in seeing a man so wise and so free from all these kinds of weaknesses as you had always

always been, so miserably destroy yourself for that homely country puss, and her dunghill cock. In the midst of these melancholy reflections some cries which arose from the foot of the mountain on that side next the sea, completed my despair. For a report flew about every where, that they had surprised you just as you was going to embark with your new mistress to preserve yourself ; but how great was my joy when I saw the prisoner. It was one of our hunters of yesterday whom they brought back with this girl ; their sentence was pronounced without any other form of process, and although they denied the fact, the lover who was to be the executioner, made a hole in which he put his mistress up to the neck, after having tenderly embraced her ; the hole was filled with earth round about her ; and as they saw nothing but her head (and even that presently was to be no more seen) they heard a cock crow in the midst of the air.

The people stared up, they heard another cry, but they saw nothing ; at length however, one of the most considerable in this assembly, took out of his pocket an astronomical telescope, and maintained that it was a knat who mimicked the cock ; the lover maintained that it was the cock belonging

longing to his mistress, and swore by the great Caramofil, that he knew him by his voice. During this dispute a real cock, who had soared higher than any bird of his kind had done, descended from the skies, and came and posted himself on the head they were going to bury under the earth; the repeated shrieks of the whole assembly did not fright him, whilst all the people looked on this kind of a prodigy as a convincing proof of the innocence of the accused; but as they approached to dig her out of the ground, the cock stretched his neck, clapped his wings, crowed three times, and mounting up like an hawk, they lost sight of him in an instant. This made the principal spectators suppose that he had something to find fault with in respect to her kindness to her lover; but as the cock in beating his wings upon her head, had struck out her left eye, they judged that it was the punishment of some tender indulgences, and they declared her fully justified from a capital crime. They delivered her then directly both from the pit and all her apprehensions; the people went to conduct her to her parents, and while they put the first dressing on her eye, I came hither to beg of you to save yourself, and to get away from a country where the mountains
are

are full of enchantments, the islands of lions, and the continent of cocks, who are little better.

I knew the truth of what he said by what had happened to me on the top of the mountain, I followed his advice, and we went away without any obstacle from this place of prodigies, and incomprehensible events. The more I thought of what I had seen, the less could I persuade myself that it was real; the lion who spoke to me, the old woman who testified so much affection for me, the girl who had an aversion to me, the divinity who prescribed impossible things, the water I drank so greedily, the repast I began with so much horror, appeared to me as so many illusions; however I found myself in possession of the precious shoe, and that was enough to convince me that all the rest was real. At the first city of consequence I came to I caused this helmet, which you see, to be made, and on this helmet the cock enriched with precious stones, who beat his wings, and seemed to crow, keeps the marvellous shoe which I am about to show you.

At these words the courteous stranger having opened the cock drew from thence this wonder, which he had so much boasted of to me, and which was enclosed in the figure

gure of a cock, which I had at first taken for an eagle. I confess to you, most illustrious emperor, that I was struck with astonishment at it ; this shoe is a masterpiece for its form, its beauty, and its smallness ; its sight alone raised an emotion in me, though I was persuaded that it was a work rather made for an amusement, than any use it could be of. Notwithstanding the handsome stranger protested to me that he had put it on the beautiful huntress, I believed nothing of it ; at length after having held it a long time in my hands, after having turned it on every side, and kissed it with the permission of him who shewed it me, it was put again into the crest of the helmet ; and Facardin of the mountain resuming his history ; I will not, Seigneur, says he, amuse you with the frivolous recital of adventures which have happened to me, since it would be giving you a tiresome detail of contemps, insults, and affronts, which I have endured in every place where I have paid my addresses. I saw not a woman I did not think worthy of my tenderness, and not one of these saw me without thinking my tenderness unworthy of her. Beauties who were no longer in the prime of their youth preferred their gentlemen-ushers to me, and the others quitted me for mine.

mine. Nevertheless not one refused the trial of the shoe, and yet not one of them could get it on the end of her foot. There remained then no other hope, but in meeting with a cock, who should fly as high as that which belonged to the beautiful huntress; that is to say, a cock who would fly like an eagle, and which appeared to me as difficult to find, as a woman who loved me, or a foot which fitted this fine shoe.

I had already run through the provinces of Africa and Asia in useless searches, and was on the point of embarking at the port of Sydon to pass into Europe, when the ambassadors of Fortimbras, with the great mouth, king of Denmark landed there, they told me they were going to make a tour toward Bactria to seek for a mouth of the same size as the king their master's; but they thought their journey would be to no purpose whatever assurance had been given them to the contrary; and to convince me of it, they opened a golden casket, out of which they took the measure of this royal mouth, and the measure was a geometrical foot. I told them I had travelled a great deal without having seen a mouth in all my travels which came near it; but I begged them to tell me what the king their master intended to do with another

ther mouth as enormous as his own, even supposing it possible to find such a one, they told me that this curiosity was raised in him, by a very whimsical adventure, which they had not time to tell me ; and upon that the chief of the ambassy, who appeared to me to be a man of consequence, fetched two or three great sighs and began to weep. The other joined company with him, and I saw the tears fall from their eyes, as well as from my 'squire's (without knowing however why these venerable ambassadors wept) when the first began to speak : Ah, my dear country ! I may well bid you farewell for ever, since the hope of seeing you again is forbidden us, at least till we can return toward these happy shores with the two things that we are sent in search after, and that all the earth cannot furnish us with.

As I did not doubt at all but the great mouth was one of these two things, I begged them to inform me what was the other. They told me the invincible Forimbras their master had a daughter who was called Sapinell of Jutland ; and that he loved this daughter even to the height of folly, because she was the most beautiful princess in the world ; that for two years she had been almost mad ; that the
king

king her father who refused her nothing, had at her request hanged all the shoemakers in Denmark, because one of these shoemakers could not make shoes little enough for the finest of feet that nature ever made; that foreign shoemakers informed of her ill disposition, and of the fate of their brethren, had all refused to work for her; that upon that account, the king her father, giving way to his tenderness for her, had caused it to be published throughout his dominions, that whoever would fit the beautiful Sapinell with shoes should have her for his pains, on condition, however, that he should be hanged as well as the other shoemakers, whoever undertook it without accomplishing it; and we miserable ministers of an absolute master, and a crazy mistress, have it in our instructions to find this little shoe and great mouth, or never to set foot on these fertile plains of our happy country. These are the two commissions we are charged with; judge if we have not reason to despair of seeing our native land again.

The good ambassador wept like a child when he spoke of it; his story made me shed some tears in my turn; I run over in my mind the conditions of the edicts, of which he had been speaking; I asked him,
if

if by chance one was to present to this Sapi-
 pinell a shoe too little for her, what would
 be the consequence of that? For although
 I imagine, says I, that she is a puppet in
 size, one might easily make a shoe that a
 puppet could not put on. The chief of
 the embassy was affronted at the compari-
 son, and looking upon me with an air of
 contempt, Young man, says he to me,
 when you shall have seen the world a little,
 you will learn not to profane by the name
 of puppet, beauties the fame of which is
 unknown to none but you and such as you.
 If fortune ever leads you to the feet of the
 princess of Denmark, you shall see what
 feet she has, and you will confess that her
 size does not yield to any in the world, but
 to that of Mouffeline the Serious; it is not
 so much the smallness of her foot which
 seems proportioned to this advantageous
 shape, as the turn, the grace, and the un-
 common structure of this foot, which caused
 hitherto that no shoe has been made to fit
 it. But suppose, Seigneur Ambassador, af-
 ter having fitted it both as to the form, fi-
 gure, graces, and wonderful structure of
 this foot, one would not espouse your In-
 fanta, according to the edict of the king
 her father, what would be the consequence
 of it? If such an impossibility could hap-
 pen,

pen, that there could be found one so stupid, so much of a brute, so weak in his intellects, and so void of taste, as to renounce the lawful possession of Jutland, in that case the beautiful Sapinell of Jutland is obliged by oath (saving her honour, and all its dependencies) to agree to what he who hath fitted her to her liking, shall ask of her. You pretty well guess why I asked so many questions : This last answer determined me : For my mind was filled with difficulties at first ; the pretty huntress reigned always in my heart, nevertheless it did not prevent my being smitten with all the objects which came in my way ; but I forgot them the first moment of their absence, to give myself up entirely to think of her charms ; the princess they had been speaking of offered her hand as a reward of a success she despaired of ; on the other side death was the recompence of the rash man who should not succeed. I had searched every where for a foot worthy of the finest shoe in the world ; the princess of Denmark longed for a shoe worthy of the finest foot in the world, which she thought was her own : If on the other side I feared that the easiness of my inclination did not make me forget every one when near a princess, whom they represented so beautiful ; on the

VOL. II. D other,

other, the aversion all the sex seemed to have to the sight of me, heartened me up against my own weakness. I had wandered through the world without finding a woman who would accept of my affection, and without meeting with any but dunghill cocks, who did not know what it was to take a swift flight into the air; I resolved then immediately to embark in one of the vessels belonging to the ambassadors, to fit the Infanta Sapinell, and to carry her in triumph with me to the feet of the nymph of the Steel Bow. The ambassadors, who were the best people in the world, did what they could to divert me from so rash a resolution, and set before my eyes the impossibility of the undertaking, and how disagreeable it would be to see me hanged in the flower of my age, as I should not fail to be if I touched in vain, the foot of the divine Sapinell. I had not told them of the shoe, and the chief of the embassy, who cried very much, took leave of me, when I embarked, with tears in his eyes.

I set sail, and the wind favoured me so much, that the seventh month after my embarkation I landed on the happy shore of Scanditavia. I crossed these vast and barren provinces in less than four months, and I repaired to the court of Fortimbras with

with the great mouth ; there happened to me there some adventures more worth your attention, than those which I have been telling you, as you will see by the following narrative.

The handsome stranger was in this part of his history, when it was broke off by a sudden noise of trumpets, clarions, kettle-drums, fifes, drums, bag-pipes, and flagelets, a great number of which were in the forest ; we turned our eyes on every side, and we stopped a long while at the place whence this noise seemed to proceed, but it was to no purpose ; the nearer this concert approached, the more our surprise increased, not seeing any thing round about us which could cause it ; but my secretary and the 'squire of the stranger, who astonished at this prodigy, had climbed up the trees that they might see a great way, ran to us quite scared, and told us, that a great number of Arabs, whom some hills had at first prevented our seeing, seemed to extend themselves on every side to surround us. As soon as we received this information, we mounted upon our camels which they brought us, and marched boldly enough toward the foremost of this troop which we began to perceive ; but it was not long before we discovered that they

were not Arabs, and that those we saw dreamt of nothing less than surrounding us. Nevertheless the spectacle surprised us; for as far as our sight could extend on the side from whence these scouts came, we saw a numerous train of horses, elephants, and camels, loaded with litters, palankins, and baggage. This equipage was escorted by soldiers, and a great number of slaves, all covered with painted callico; and the colours of this callico were so lively, and so diversified, that we thought we saw a moving parterre, enamelled with all the flowers which appear in the spring. We stopped to see this wonderful convoy, in the midst of which a palankin glittering with gold, and the most rare pictures, attracted all our attention. This palankin was shut up on all sides, four slaves of a size larger than ordinary carried it on their shoulders; and four satrapes on horseback carried each an umbrella to keep it from the heat of the sun; these four satrapes, the slaves, and the umbrelloes, were adorned with painted callico, but the callico so fine, so magnificently painted, and so richly embroidered, that my secretary, who knew better than any man in the world, has several times since affirmed to me that it was worth at least two talents a yard.

About

About this palankin were all those who had formed the concert we had heard so long before we saw any thing. This concert unfortunately began again as soon as the palankin was opposite to us, and we knew as soon as it began, that one must be accustomed to hear it to be able to endure it near; this sudden music made us all start; but it seemed so frightful to our camels, that they run away with us, after all the extravagancies which a sudden fear makes them practice on these occasions: All the efforts we made to keep them in served only to make them more resty, and to redouble the impetuosity with which they carried us away: Mine and my secretary's who was not willing to quit him, turning their back in concert, flung themselves all in a fury across the rear-guard which followed in a loose manner, and throwed on their belly all they met in their way. The disorder and the cries of those who saw themselves assaulted unawares, augmented still the fury of these cursed animals, who did not slacken the violence of their course till they came to the first river; they stopped there a moment to take breath, but the remembrance of their alarm returning the same instant, they flung themselves into the midst of the water, without giving

us the least hint of their scheme, and all we could do in this surprise, was to gain the bank opposite, of a very rapid and deep river : We were more than fifteen furlongs from the forest where we had caused so much disorder, I should have been willing to return on my feet, as well to satisfy the curiosity the beginning of this adventure had caused in me, as to know what was become of the handsome Facardin, whom we could not see, turn our eyes which way we would to look for him. But my secretary having represented to me the danger and difficulty of the passage of the river, the approach of night, the distance of the places, and the fresh uproar which our camels would make, still in a fright, if the horror of the rough music should begin again on our arrival, I yielded, and letting him conduct me toward a rustic habitation which appeared afar off. I passed the night there impatiently, and as soon as the day appeared I took the field, to know what this apparition of a triumph, this decoration of painted callico was, and above all to find again, cost what it would, Facardin and his shoe, to be informed of the rest of their adventures ; but a dreadful storm which had lasted during the whole night, swelling at once all the torrents which fell
from

from the neighbouring mountains, had made the river we had crossed overflow its banks in such a manner, that it was in vain to attempt the passage, or to wait till the waters retired. The people with whom we lodged assured us, that all the plains thereabouts would be overflowed for more than a month. This is the adventure which separated me from the engaging stranger, of whom I have never been able from this day to get the least intelligence, notwithstanding the pains I have been at every where, to learn something about him.

Dinarzade after a sigh of relief, such as we ordinarily make at the getting rid of a great oppression, or a long vexation, joining her two hands above her head, a thousand thanks, cried she, to the satrapes covered with painted callico, the gilt palan-kin, the giants who carried it, the umbrelloes which kept the sun from it, and above all to the bag-pipes, the fifes, the kettle-drums, and flagelets, which by frightening your camels, separated you from this other Facardin ; and may the overflowing of that river be ever fortunate, which hindered you from rejoining him ; for without all that you would have had wherewithal to fatigue us, as much as you have done by the beginning of his adventures,

D ♣

tures, in telling us still those which happened to Sapinell and Jutland.

Tell me truly seigneur Facardin as near as you can, how many years the narrative of your travels would take up, or to tell what your secretary can recollect, for since the time you abused the patience of the Sultan, you have as yet only spoke of the fortunes of another. The Sultan, who according to custom, had made his great chamberlain rub the sole of his feet, during the beginning of this history, by good luck did not hear what his sister-in-law had said, by reason of a little drowsiness that seized him; without this drowsiness, one may believe she had not got off, for a simple reprimand; and Facardin to prevent his perceiving that they had interrupted him, went on after this manner: As your always august and victorious majesty, seemed to have your attention drawn off by some serious and political reflexions during certain places of my narrative, I am going to repeat what I have told during those moments of your reverie, that you may find again the thread of my history. It is not necessary, says the Sultan; the least word of it has not escaped me; and to make you sensible of it, while I was meditating

meditating on the tranquility of my people, and the prosperity of my state, you related, how the elephants, the fifiers, the umbrelloes, and all the painted callico had pursued their resolution, and flung themselves into the sea, as soon as you, your 'squires, and your camels began to play on your flutes and bagpipes. Exactly so, replied Dinarzade, the prince of Trebizonde need only pursue his history; if he spends a day according to your highness's desire to relate it in the taste of this sample, it will be the most curious history in the world; hold your tongue then, said the Sultan, that I may give all my attention to it; and do you go on Facardin. I was extremely sorry, says Facardin, that I could not take my leave of the stranger, as well upon account of the esteem I had for him, as the design I had of begging him to change his name, that the exploits with which I purposed to render mine famous, might not be confounded between the only two Facardins which were in the world; but it was not long before I found that this precaution had been quite useless.

There are some indolent and speculative spirits who would pass hours without speaking, chiefly when they are alone; but as to me, who never knew what this ridicu-

lous idleness of the imagination was, which revises all objects, which one meets with in travelling, without opening one's mouth to reason on them, I talked to myself when I had no body else to talk to; I repeated some scenes of a comedy, I sung, I whistled; in short I practised all that genius, and the advantages of birth furnishes a man with to divert him, rather than amuse himself with building castles in the air, like those miserable dreamers of whom I have been speaking; my secretary was not, in truth, of this species of dreamers; but he stopped at the end of every field for trifles of as little consequence; and taking out a bundle of papers scrolled over with his observations, he set about sketching the rivers, the mountains, the shores, the castles, the mills, and even the very pigeon-houses he met with on the road; one day, when I was more impatient about it than ordinary, Jasmin, says I, is it possible, with this beard which hangs down to your girdle, you should be perpetually playing the fool with this rag of a journal, instead of being near me to answer my questions. Bring me this stuff, that I may see in the plan you have drawn of the perilous adventures, the adventure the most within our reach, that I may go in quest of it;

for

for I am weary of wandering, at hazard, as I have done these three weeks: We were near a bridge, which he began to take a draught of, while I was talking to him, it was, with much ado he quitted what he was about to obey me; however he got himself in order before we passed the river, when our camels began to snuffle, and tremble for fear, a moment after we heard some musical instruments tune, and immediately we saw at the other end of the bridge half a dozen personages dressed in painted callico, who having seen us first, tuned their instruments of different kinds, to do us honour, as soon we knew they were such musicians, as we met in the forest, we made a sign to them not to begin the serenade, which they intended to honour us with. They saw very well, by our beasts stamping their feet, that it was in their favour, that we made this request, and passing by us staggering at every step, for they were all fuddled, the perplexity of our camels seemed so diverting, that they would increase it by a little flourish; from their first striking up, my secretary's camel remembering, after what manner, he was preserved the first time, flung himself into the river without hesitating, and while his master held him fast about the neck to

gain the other side, the curious memoirs of our travels, which he had not time to fold together, floated in the midst of the water ; as for my camel, whom the chief of the musicians had seized by the bridle, and the others surrounded, for fear he should follow his companion, seeing he could not get away, he fell upon his knees trembling like a leaf, shut his eyes, not being able to stop his ears, and made such mournful cries, that I could not forbear laughing at him, especially when I heard those of the other camel, who out of friendship for his companion, answered him on the other side of the river.

I alighted, and he who still held my camel by the bridle, having made his companions move off for fear of some new alarm, conducted my camel, on the other side of the bridge, and made me a great many apologies for the impudence of these drunken fellows. He told me they belonged to a band of several other musicians, whom it was likely, I had not yet met, because by the humour he saw our camels in, they would have died with anguish, if they had heard the other concert, having orders to play upon all their instruments, as soon as they saw any stranger : He added, that they staid behind to
get

get together these pitiful fellows who had stepped into every house of entertainment on the road, and that he was going to regain the convoy of the princess. And what princess, said I to him? It is Mouffeline the serious, says he, who is returning to the kingdom of her father to laugh. How to laugh, says I to him? It is, says he, because there are three months that she travels to laugh at, and it is to laugh that she returns to the kingdom of Astracan; but, it is silly in me to give you a reason for a thing which you know better than me. At these words he went away full speed to join his companions; and though I called him to satisfy my curiosity, he never turned back his head, and my secretary would not let me mount my camel to run after him, protesting he would rather die, than lie at the mercy of this implacable music. We then hastened to get far from them, he regretting the loss of his remarks, and I an explanation which I wished for, about what he had begun to tell concerning the Infanta of Astracan. Had it not been for me, we might have kept dreaming on there till night, for my secretary staid a long way behind me to set up for a wit, or to recall to his mind, an abridgment of the journal which he had lost, but not being

ing able to bear the silence his idle fancies subjected me to, I staid for him, and as soon as he was near me, Jasmin, says I to him, look among your papers, the list of the places, where there are enchantments and dangers for me to engage in, that I may go there, as I have already done, in those hereabouts. Seek them, yourself says he to me, with an air, full of affliction, since all my lists, journals, papers, went down the river; whilst I am, your Highness, upon a hag of a camel, who will make me despair of my life, and upon which it is impossible for me to save myself, so often does he occasion to curse him, and our great Prophet, who sent him into the world: follow then, Seigneur, these papers, which properly speaking are only the commentaries of our noble actions, as for me I am not stupid enough to drown myself in fishing them up again. But to what purpose is it to run after adventures with the equipage? Do not you see that however brave you may be, there need only an old woman to make you fly to the end of the world on this confounded beast. Lay aside then, if you please, the itch of glory till you are in a situation to acquire it: We are three days journey from the Persian gulph, in the city, enriched with the
com-

commerce of this sea, are the finest horses in the world, there I advise your highness to get rid of these disastrous camels, to mount ourselves after the manner of knight-errants, instead of trotting through the world like Armenian merchants, or pilgrims of Mecca.

I followed his advice, and the third day without meeting with any misfortune, that is to say, without having found any music in our way, we discovered the shore of the Red Sea ; the Sun was just setting, and I looked with pleasure on the brilliant variety with which his rays painted the surface of the waves ; it looked as if a purple carpet had been spread over it ; for the colour of this sea, and the light diffused over it, makes a brilliant mixture. My secretary, who was not far from me, asked me, if I knew why that which I was looking at was called the Red Sea ? I told him it was upon account of the colour ; on the contrary, says he, it is no more red than you are. Besides, you must not imagine that it was always so ; and since we have still an hour to be on our road to the city of Florispahan, the capital of Stony Arabia, I will relate the whole affair to you. At that extremity of the Red Sea which looks toward the Indies, on one side are the confines of Bactria,

tria, and on the other the kingdom of Ophir; the former kings of Ophir had always been at war with the kings of Bactria, and upon as trifling an account as neighbouring princes generally do, whose dominions like theirs, are not separated by more than a passage of five or six hundred leagues of sea; now after these powerful kings had been sufficiently desolated in the course of fifteen hundred years, from father to son, by continual wars; those who reign in our days bethought themselves of making a peace by the alliance of their children.

The king of Ophir had an only son, and the king of Bactria an only daughter. This daughter was what they call beauty itself, and the prince of Ophir a masterpiece of what was handsome and engaging, but cold as ice in respect to the fair sex. Nevertheless the plenipotentiaries on each side having performed their part, the treaty was presently concluded; he of Bactria, otherwise a great politician, had no nose, but to make amends for it, he had the most frightful mouth ever seen. He of Ophir . . . No, let us stay a little, that I may place this circumstance right, him of Ophir; yes, exactly so, it is him of Ophir; for he, of Bactria, on the contrary, had a mouth

mouth in which an infant of a year old could scarcely have put the tip of his finger ; but to make amends, his nose was the largest and the most frightful in pimples that plenipotentiary ever wore. The Bactrian minister carried with him the articles of peace with the portrait of the Infanta his mistress to the court of Ophir, but it was to no purpose ; the prince would not so much as look on the portrait, and went privately away from court at midnight, but what happened at the other court will make your hair stand on end. But before we come to this catastrophe, I should inform you, that at the distance of two furlongs and a half from Fourchymene, the capital of all Bactria, there is a little wood, very gloomy ; in this wood is a temple still more gloomy, hearken, if you please, to what I am going to say ; on the top of this temple is a pinnacle, which rises up to the clouds, and quite at the top of this pinnacle is a cage, and in this cage a cock which gives out oracles ; remember, if you please, all these circumstances. As the king of Ophir's minister was not yet arrived, and all the court of Bactria expected him with impatience on account of the fireworks which had been prepared on the publication of the marriage ; the beautiful

ful Primrose, who was young and well brought up, as she liked young and genteel men, importuned the queen her mother very much that they should both go incognito to consult the oracle of the cock, to know exactly at what hour the prince of Ophir would arrive, not doubting (as they had heard from good hands) but he would gallantly come himself under the denomination of the plenipotentiary of the king his father, to render his ambassie still the more taking. The princess weary of being full dressed, perfumed, &c. as she had been for three nights for fear of being surprised, went to the little stable toward evening without her maids of honour, or lady of the bedchamber, when they came to inform the queen that the ambassador of Ophir was arrived in a post-chaise. This particular of amorous impatience confirmed them in the opinion, that it was the handsome prince in person; so the chariot which had been got ready to carry them to the oracle, brought them back to the palace. The princess who expected it to be the prince, was so eager to see him, that she kept biting her lips and putting her fingers in her hair, while she waited for their bringing him to have an audience, but it was thought she would have swooned away

away when the real ambassador appeared ; she had took it so strongly in her head that it was the prince disguised under the character of the minister, that when instead of the most charming figure in the world, she saw the nose of a pelican above a mouth which seemed made by a wimble. She fell upon her knees before all the assembly, and lifting up her eyes, May Mohammed never have mercy on my soul, cried she, and may the Alcoran be poison to me, if ever I marry the prince of Ophir, till I be old and frightful enough, to give him as much aversion to me as I have to his figure ! As soon as she had finished this imprecation, she kissed the earth (which with the Bactrians is the confirmation of a solemn oath) the poor ambassador who had not yet begun his harangue, was so surpris'd with the horror she expressed for the handsomest prince in the world, that he put again into his pocket the golden reed which he had taken out to put into her mouth, and was going to make his compliments ; and he went away from the audience just as he went to it ; but he went off in such a passion, that in getting up into his palankin, it was thought his nose would never have gone out of the city without taking fire, it appeared so inflamed. The princess, on her

her part, having got out of the arms of the king and queen her father and mother, gave a swinging box of the ear to her governess, who made remonstrances to her; she got astride the horse of an officer of the guards, and did not cease galloping till she got into the wood; she alighted there, but as she went to fling herself into the temple . . . I heard with attention my secretary's narrative, when he was interrupted by something glittering which appeared on the sea at a distance from us: The Sun plunged himself into the bosom of the waves, and his last rays striking on this object, we thought at first it was a heap of gold which floated toward the shore where we were; but as it advanced we discovered streamers flying, and we found at last that it was a shallop all glittering with the gold with which it was covered from the top of its mast to the surface of the water; two dwarfs very black and very deformed were the conductors of it. As soon as it came to shore, a kind of nymph trimmed out like a bride, and more ugly than imagination could paint, went out of it; while I was so astonished how any one could be so young and so extremely disagreeable, she flung herself at my feet, and embracing my knees before I could defend myself,

self, invincible Chevalier, says she to me, come and save the most precious life that ever was in the world ; and without hesitating on the difficulty of the enterprise, swear to me that whatever the conditions of the combat may be, you will come along with me to expose yourself there for the deliverance of the completest beauty in the world ; she seemed to weep when she spoke these words ; I lifted her up to avoid the horrible grimace she began to make, and I was just going to swear, when the prudent secretary lifting up his hand ; stop, Seigneur, says he to me, let me question you a little before you engage yourself. Then taking off his leather cap, and shaking his long beard, either I don't call myself Jasmin, says he, or you come from the rock of crystal ; is it not true, my dear girl ? Hold your peace, little love, says she to him, it is not to you I am sent, it is to your master ; indeed, handsome Chevalier, it is to you, goes on she, looking at me ; the most charming of mortals is going to bathe, and this will be the last time unless you have the generosity to see her go out of it ; swear to me then that you will do it in spite of Jasmin your page ; swear to me, and so may the dew of the morning come to your aid, and that of the

night

might flatter your diversions, and that the words of your well-beloved may be as favourable to your heart, as the crowing of the cock is to the ear of him who cannot sleep at night. I could not refuse that good fortune which so many agreeable wishes promised me. So I took the oath proposed to me, and I swore whatever might happen : First of all to see the lady of whom we spoke go out of the bath, and to make my utmost efforts afterward to deliver her. My secretary no sooner heard the oath I was about to take, but he tore his hair, rumped his beard, and cried bitterly : Wretched prince, cried he, what cursed star hath led you into these places, for an engagement which is likely to destroy you or dishonour you for ever. I am certain, that none but a satyr, or some such creature, would dare even to look at the adventure which you have rashly sworn to undertake, and which I could safely swear you will never put an end to ; but I know how to disengage you from the oath you have taken. At these words he drew his poignard, and run to the ambassadress with a design to pierce her to the heart. It was not difficult for me to prevent the effect of his passion, nor to find words to reproach him for this transport of anger ; all that
did

did not make him repent of it, and seeing that I embarked without him (for that was the condition of this enterprise) seeing, say I, that I absolutely forbid him to accompany me : May the sea, cried he, swallow up the gilt boat, the two dwarfs who steer it, the monkey who is in it, and the unfortunate Facardin who follows it !

The nymph had no sooner heard my name, but she looked two or three times with great astonishment, and asked me if it was true that I was Facardin. Why not ? says I to her, at this answer turning herself toward my secretary who wept still upon the shore, Venerable Jasmin, says she to him, tell me the truth, is this really Facardin ? He swore it in hopes it was for my good she asked. Let us row then, cries she, since we have the invincible Facardin ; but if it is him, what hath he done with the half of his person ? As I understood nothing of all that, I did not make any answer, and the gilt barge rowing with incredible swiftness, we lost sight of the shore, where the inconsolable Jasmin was in despair, and fifteen minutes after we discovered another. It was a rock of a vast extent, which rose in the middle of the sea, it appeared to me transparent ; as soon as we landed there, I knew it was all crystal.

tal. A woman older, more magnificently dressed, and much uglier than she in the boat, came to receive us; as soon as our young lady saw her, let us rejoice, cries she, I bring you what our divine mistress hath sought for a long time, I bring you the great Facardin. You must be mad, answers the other, my poor Harpiana, to believe this little monkey is the invincible Facardin; but it does not signify, we shall see what this youth is capable of, and since he hath not an air sufficient for the approaches of the adventure, we shall have the consolation to see him slayed while they burn the unfortunate Cristalline. Hath he sworn? yes, says the first owl to him, and with so good a grace, that I have some concern for his destiny. Let him be disarmed then, says the other, whilst I go to declare him to the charming Cristalline. Softly, if you please, you ugly pusses, says I to them, take notice, I will sooner cleave you both in two, than I will give you leave to speak another word of disarming me.

I clapped my hands to my sword at these words, and seeing them quite in a maze at so blunt a proceeding, let them conduct me, says I to them, to this Cristalline, whom I have stupidly sworn to succour, that I may lose no time in delivering her
from

from a danger which appears so pressing ; it would really be very a propos to disarm me at a time I am going in quest of a combat ! Chevalier, my dear love ! says she who came to receive us, do what they tell you, as it will be to no purpose to resist, leave here your arms, and I swear to you by the great Haly, founder of the green turbans, that if one enemy presents himself armed against you, they shall restore you yours. I suffered myself to be persuaded, and keeping nothing but my sword, which I would never quit, I followed these two creatures. We met in our way a vast number of figures which appeared to me very astonishing. They were men clothed, and their heads, dressed like girls, who carrying each a distaff with its spindle, spun with all their might as they saw us passing. I asked what this shameful masquerade of so many warlike countenances into spinsters meant ; they told me I was very unfortunate not to have any chance of being one ; that all these men were so many adventurers, who having sworn, as well as myself, to attempt the same adventure, chose rather to spend their life in that condition, than to undertake it at the hazard of being flayed alive, if they did not go through with it ; but as we were at the last day of the

year which was allowed for that choice, the last who offered himself after having sworn, had no other choice left him, but that of undertaking the deliverance of their sovereign, or being flayed alive in case he refused it, or did not accomplish it after he had accepted it. May not one know of what nature this perilous adventure is ? It belongs to our mistress to inform you when we bring you to her. It had been difficult to have kept on one's feet, or at least to have walked in an island all crystal, if they had not scattered powder of diamonds on all the roads, and as it was quite night, I should not have been able to have distinguished objects, if they had not with infinite labour hollowed the rock in an hundred thousand places to put in boxes with orange-trees, from the branches of which hung vast crystal chandeliers, and a million of candles, which illuminated all the rock, as if it was noon day. We were under the torrid zone, near the equinoctial line. The Sun had darted his rays directly all the day on this prodigious mass of crystal ; the air was heated by it, as you may believe, the winds seemed to die away with the twilight, so that I was all in a sweat when we came to the extremity of the rock ; on the declivity of this extremity I saw a square pavillion ;

my

my two guides desired me to repose myself there ; I found it set out with all kind of refreshments, I first took that of the bath, at the solicitation of these conductresses, who assisted me in undressing myself, but they could not persuade me to trust them with my sword as I did my clothes.

They represented strongly to me that no body ever bathed sword in hand ; it all signified nothing, I not only went in but came out in that posture. They flung over my shoulders a magnificent night gown ; and while I eat what they set before me, and drank some delicious wine, they carried away my habits, and day broke. They began again to beg of me to lay aside that great villainous scymiter, which did not at all suit the places where I was to prove myself, and without restoring me my habits, they said it was time to depart. I want nothing, says I to them, but to have a distaff instead of my sword, and a night-rail over my shoulders, to be in the equipage of those miserable creatures I met. At last, seeing I did not comprehend the reason of their wanting so much to take away my sword ; they conducted me, in the situation I was in, to the end of a bridge, upon which they crossed from the rock of Crystal to the most delicious meadow ever seen. There

these two girls quitted me, as soon as I had got to the other side of the bridge, two Moors, more deformed than those in the shallop, kept the passage with a brazen fence, and having made their reverence, demanded of me my sword, I told them I was so importuned about this article, that I would cleave them asunder if they mentioned it again; this menace so frightened them that they set a running like hares across the meadow; I followed them slowly till I came to a palace which could not but be transparent, since it was made of the most magnificent looking-glass that could be in the world. On the side of this palace they had erected, by means of an infinite number of golden pegs, and purple cords, a most superb tent; for I have understood since, that it was that of the unfortunate Darius, from whom I have the honour to descend in a right line. This tent, open before, discovered to my view a bed more magnificent and gay, if possible, than that in which now reposes the charms of the most excellent Scheherazade your spouse. These objects would not have given me the least idea of a dangerous adventure if I had not found them villainously situated, for on the right of the transparent palace appeared a pile of wood which seemed intended

tended for the burning of some criminal, and to the left of the tent a kind of altar, at the four corners of which they had put rings to fasten the victim to, and knives to kill him. Although it might be only fear which made me fancy all this, I confess a sudden uneasiness seized me, when I remembered what they told me at the crystal rock ; nevertheless as I saw no body in the tent, although the bed was ready for their reception, I approached the little palace, and there I had the first knowledge of the whimsical adventure I was to engage in. The place, chance at first conducted me to, was the very apartment of the baths. I had nothing to do but to find the door, I saw very distinctly what passed there, and four negro women who were blacker, their noses flatter, and more naked, than those in the very heart of Guinea, were ranged about the water, where according to all appearances their mistress only waited my coming to begin the adventure ; for as soon as they perceived me these four ladies of the dressing-room set themselves in a row on the side where I was, and the marvellous Crystalline went out of the bath as naked as she could be, without being quite so ; she was for some time in this situation in the midst of these four old moles, before they

could get her something to cover her ; I knew the artifice, but before I was sensible of the advantage her beauty received from the opposition of these frightful figures, I confess I was struck with the whiteness of her whole person, and I did not value at all the danger of the enterprize, in hopes that a beauty so extraordinary would make some acknowledgment of the service done her.

I do not know after what manner, she and her followers disappeared while I was reasoning in this fine manner ; but some moments after, one of the negroes came to tell me, that the beautiful Crystaline, her mistress, the divinity I had the happiness to see to go out of the bath, waited for me in her bed, where she had just been putting her, in hopes I should save her life by this generous compaisance. I did not know how to persuade myself but they made a jest of me by a proposition, so gallant and so flattering at the same time : Let the adventure end as it will, says I to myself, provided it begins as this civil messenger seems to make me to expect : I followed her hastily, for she went very fast, I thought they brought me to the tent of Darius, and as soon as I was introduced there, I saw myself encompassed by a company of armed people

people, who posted themselves all round me. This done, the crystalline nymph begged of me to sit a moment at the bolster of her bed; when I had placed myself there, she took a golden bell, and immediately upon her ringing it, there appeared an old man whose beard was three feet longer than my secretary's; in his left hand he held a sythe, and in his right a pendulum, which he put on a table on the other side of the bolster, and withdrew. As soon as he was gone out, there appeared two other figures still more extraordinary, the one was a kind of high-priest, venerable in his habit, but of the fiercest aspect ever seen, and who, with his sacerdotal vestments, had a great butcher's knife stuck in his girdle, without taking notice of his beard still longer than that of the first; the other was a locksmith, as well as I could judge by a hammer, nails, and a file, he was furnished with. He had besides a key chain, which instead of keys was quite filled with rings of different kinds, he put this key chain into a large ring, which came out of a plate of gold, that was fastened in the ground; the goddess in the bed, whom I never had time to look upon, on account of all this masquerade, desired me to make the first trial, that is to say, to bring

her one of these rings, which when done, the adventure was finished, she at liberty, and I master of her person and all her treasures. At these words I turned my eyes toward her, but I was too near her, to find her so wonderful as at the first time ; in spite of all the art which sustained the remains of beauty, her visage appeared to me very much withered. I do not know, if she thought that my surprise proceed from my thinking her painted, for she affected to let me see her neck and arms to make me believe it was not so ; and this convinced me that she was so from head to feet, and from this moment I was as much disgusted at her charms, as I had been amazed at them, when I saw her going out of the bath ; nevertheless, as the business was to attempt the adventure, and that it only consisted in putting a ring on the finger, I got up to go toward the key chain, when this high-priest with his long beard seeing me armed ; my little friend, says he to me, in the Arabian language, where did you learn to appear before ladies in bed, with your sword in hand ? That I should directly fall upon both my knees, and give up this useless rapier. It would be impossible, magnanimous emperor, to make you sensible of the fury this insolence flung me into.

Never-

Nevertheless, as I was willing to moderate it for fear of some indecorum: Monsieur Abbot, says I to him, although what you said to me, is the burden of the song of all the mob, with which these places are inhabited, I forewarn you, that if there proceeds from that bush which covers all your visage, another such a word, as those you have just uttered, your head shall serve for no other use but to sweep the filth of these places. After this compliment I made my sword whistle, two or three times, about his ears, and I saw very well that all who spoke to me in these islands, using the same language, took the same course when I answered them, for my high-priest run away, after having stooped every time my sword went over his head, and the locksmith followed him very close.

As soon as I saw myself alone, I wanted to finish the adventure by carrying a ring to the crystalline fairy, for I thought it was only stooping down, as they said, to take it. But although I laboured and drew them one after another with a strength superior to that of most men, I could never move one of them; the vexation of a resistance I did not expect, made me redouble my efforts at several snatches, but always to no purpose. This adventure

brought to my mind the affair of Alexander about the Gordian knot, and I went to fetch back the lock-smith, or to lay hold of one of his files, when the nymph begged of me to set myself down by her, and as soon as I had done that, it is not on such efforts, says she to me, that my safety and yours depend. You see that all the power of the universe cannot disengage one of these rings from the chain, in the manner you have attempted it; nevertheless there is one way, to get them all out one after another, with as much ease, as if the chain was opened; recover your breath, before I instruct you in it, in the meanwhile, take sufficient notice of what you see in this tent. I turned my eyes on every side, and I saw besides the pundulum and key chain, a crystal chest, and two spinning-wheels, then the lady on the bed, seeing I lent my attention to her, spoke to me in this manner:

I am born with all the sentiments of wisdom and virtue which others have need of being inspired with, but with a curiosity I was never able to overcome; a mother desirous of preserving me in all the purity of my innocence, would not suffer men to approach those places where I was brought up; my natural curiosity had nothing for
its

its object, but the presence of a creature, of whom I did not know the name; they might represent it to me as a most frightful monster who would devour me at first sight; my curiosity was only increased by it; and I had no sooner attained the age of twelve, but she became so sharp upon me, that I resolved to run away from her, and to see a man, let the consequence be what it would; I got out of bed, when I believed all the house buried in a profound sleep, I jumped from the window into the garden, from the garden I climbed upon the wall, I leaped from that at the hazard of my life, and all to seek a beast which was to devour me; I run across the fields like a mad creature, for fear they should run after me to bring me back, and as soon as I thought myself far enough off, I set myself down near a bush to rest myself till it was day. Under this same bush a young pilgrim, whom the night, in all likelihood, overtook, had also taken refuge there. I did not perceive him till full day-light allowed me to distinguish objects; he awoke at the same time, as much surprised as I was at first, to see a person so near me; I was then so perfectly innocent, in spite of all my curiosity, that I thought it a girl of my own age, but of some foreign country,

on account of the different dress, and the clothes being much shorter than mine; we looked at one another for some time without speaking a word; at last opening his mouth, beautiful stranger, says he to me, if you understand the language I speak, I beg of you to instruct me where I can find a woman; my father who lives in the most desert place of all the province, and which is the fullest of wild beasts, having brought me up from my infancy in the exercise of hunting, allowed me to pursue them all, and to fight with wolves, boars and bears, but he forbid me to enter the lists with the most dangerous of all beasts, which is called a woman, he assured me it was full of poison, and against which it was impossible to defend one's self; I asked him how this beast was made that I might be able to avoid it; he would not tell me, I begged of him to get a quite young one, to endeavour to bring it up tame in the house; but he would not hearken to that; and his refusing so resolutely increased the extreme desire I had of seeing one of these dragons; it is above a month since I stole away from my father, and run every way about through the most gloomy woods, and the most frightful deserts, to find one of these beasts; so as I see by your dress that you are of
another

another country, if by chance you find any women, I conjure you still once more to shew me one. And are not you yourself one, says I to him, quite astonished? No, says he, don't be at all afraid; and if one should come here, you see this bow and arrows, I know so well how to make use of it, that I will secure you. But if you are not a woman, says I to him, what can you be? I am a man as well as you, answers he. What shall I say to you, Seigneur Chevalier? After a great deal of astonishment, and many questions on both sides, we drew nearer one another again, our first alarms ceased, we found what we sought after; and without either his devouring me, or my poisoning him with my venom, our curiosity was satisfied. We were so satisfied with this discovery, and so offended with this trick of our parents, that we resolved never to leave one another to return to them. We concealed ourselves for some days in the thickest part of the forests, persuaded that they would seek for me every where round about, for we feared nothing so much as being separated, and I reckoned it as nothing for some days at first, the living only upon what my companion got in hunting, and the having no other shelter during night but trees and rocks.

rocks. But as my proneness to curiosity was not at all extinguished, it awakened in this solitude ; disquiet seized me, I imagined that all men were not comprehended in the first I had met ; that though he might be as handsome as the day, there might be found still more to my liking than this ; and as soon as it came into my head, I resolved to get my heart clear of him ; I proposed to him then to go out of the woods to see a little what passed elsewhere ; he wanted nothing better, and we went so far that we arrived on the sea shore ; he had never seen this vast element any more than me ; you know that it is an object which always surprises the first time a person sees it, and we were both of us very attentive in considering it, when the surface of it was disturbed by a kind of water-spout, which was to be seen as far as the eye could reach, from the place where we were ; there went from it a thick vapour, which rising up even to the sky, thickened as it descended again, and forming a dark cloud, was drove by a sudden gale of wind to the place from whence we were looking ; I was wrapt up in it as by a cloke, which inclosing me closer and closer, took me off the earth while my lover, whom I had left there, was crying. I perceived that it trans-

transported me with a rapid motion, but that was the least of my uneasinesses ; I am naturally bold, and all my concern was that the mist concealed from me (as I believed) a thousand things worthy of my curiosity ; at that moment it dissipated ; the sea parted, and all the harm I received from it, was the finding myself in the middle of a spacious grotto, adorned with all the different shells the sea produces, and which seemed enriched with all the coral and the finest pearls which were to be found in its bosom. Scarcely had I time to recollect myself, and to recover from my surprise, but I saw near me the faithful Harpiana, who is the girl who went to seek you in the golden shallop, and who by the banks of Florispahan hath conducted you to the crystal rock.

She was clothed something like the attendants of Thetis, that is to say, not much to advantage ; for she was still more ugly than you see her at present ; she told me, after making me a very low courtsey, that I was very welcome, and that the sovereign of this empire had sent her to wait upon me, to show me the wonders of this abyss, and to conduct me afterward to places where I was expected. She conducted me through a great gallery of crystal,

tal, the vault of which was supported by a range of columns covered with mother of pearl and coral. When we were come to the end, she asked me if I would not see the magazine of shipwrecks before I ascended. She told me we were upon the Red Sea; that this sea being the canal by which the treasures of the Indies are communicated by a continual navigation to the rest of the universe, it happened often that those who by a long course of labour were enriched by the spoils of the earth, should pay their tribute at the bottom of the sea, where they collected with care (ranging them in order) the different presents which the tempests made to the most greedy of all the elements. I was not willing to refuse this proposition, I who could refuse nothing to my curiosity; we entered then into a hall, where I saw heaps of gold, silver, and precious stones, but this hall appeared to me of so vast an extent, that I could not comprehend how the earth could furnish the immense treasures with which it was filled. After having admired all these things, they conducted me to a magazine still more worthy of my curiosity. It was a hall not so large, but longer than the former; on one side there was to be seen statues of gold, silver, brass, and marble, with

with furniture of all fashions, and arms of every kind, all very rich or valuable for their workmanship; on the other side of this hall there was a row of chests of drawers further than one could see; upon each of these chest of drawers was the portrait of a man and a woman with an inscription under them. The head-dress, the clothes, and the draperies of these portraits, were of different nations. I examined the first with so much attention, that the Harpcian nymph told me the impatience they were in to see me elsewhere did not permit me to make so long a stay there, as it would deprive me of examining the rest: She told me that within each chest of drawers were the habits of those of whom they had placed the portraits, and history without; that they were all illustrious personages of both sexes, whom several shipwrecks had caused to perish; that they had painted the most distinguished of so many unfortunate persons; that they had reanimated some of them, and taken the portrait of others after their death; for example, it is twenty years, says she, since I was drowned along with Sultaneſs Fatima, favourite of the Grand Seignior, who was carrying rich offerings to Mecca; what happened then? They brought us both to life, she for her extreme

extreme beauty, me to wait upon her. The sovereign of these places was passionately fond of her ; nevertheless all his art and all his power could not save her ; she died at the end of six months of the small-pox (which is the only distemper they cannot cure at court) see there her portrait, adds she, and in this chest are her clothes : She opened it to show me them, there never was any thing more magnificent nor more gay ; and while I looked on them with attention, having examined me in her turn, it is just your make, says she to me ; the clothes you wear are not worthy of a shape like yours, these of the Sultaneſs will fit you much better, one would say they were made for you. I took measure of your person at one look, and I am never deceived.

I consented to the proposition, and as soon as I was disguised, my new dressing woman found me so charming, that she pressed me to ascend to those places, of which I should presently after see the Mistress, and with which I should be enchanted. You shall see there the chief of the Genii, says she, and you shall see him at your feet : Shall not I see any man there, says I, interrupting her ? This question surprised her, but she had not time to answer it ; the chief of the Genii came himself to satisfy

tisfy me; the impatience he had to see his new prey, transported him, I do not know in what manner, to the place where we were; instead of our waiting upon him as became his dignity; his presence surprised me without frightening me; although he was quite otherwise made than the pilgrim of the bush, I knew it was a man; he was not as handsome as the former, but to make amends, he was a great deal bigger; so considering with myself, that, a man of whom they had made me afraid, being an animal so excellent in himself; the taller he was, the more wonderful he must be; after the first compliments were over, I consented to the proposition he made me of being with him, so simple was I, as I told you, on the appearance of things.

After this ceremony, the only one of our marriage, he gave me his hand, or rather his fist, for it was covered to the very end of his fingers, we ascended by a magnificent stair-case, and we ascended so high, that we found ourselves in the midst of a crystal rock, the same rock you crossed to come here; from this rock, I was conducted to this island, and it was under the tent where we are, that our marriage was completed; I was presently out of conceit with him, for the nation of the Genii, is
stupid,

stupid, whimsical, cruel, and ill-shaped; besides, forcerers to the highest degree; although mine was naturally fickle, as he was naturally amorous, he became so constant to me, that I thought I should die with grief; to this constancy he joined an unmeasurable jealousy, but at the same time, of a kind quite new. He was desirous of people looking on me, that they might admire me; but he was furious, when he suspected they had taken a liking to me. I was a treasure he wanted to keep to himself alone, but he was not contented with only himself knowing what an extraordinary treasure he was possessed of. I spent several years in a melancholy manner, with an animal, who plagued me with his chimeras, and disgusted me with his caresses. Harpiana was my only consolation; she advised me carefully to conceal an aversion, which her lord and mine might perceive, so gross, as it was, and told me rather by a redoubled complaisance to make him believe I was fond of his person, and his charms, the better to deceive him, when an opportunity should offer. I followed her advice, and I established myself so thoroughly in the Genius, my spouse, that, by degrees, he revealed all his secrets to me; among which he told me there were
but

but three Genii in the universe, who were as powerful as himself, that they were all three his enemies, and that they had each a spinning-wheel, which he must put into the hands of three of the most beautiful princesses in the world to make them his slaves; and that getting them into his power, as soon as they had spun long enough to make a cord which would reach from the top of the highest mountain to the sea, he should have attained his end; but till then, he run the risk of undoing, all that he could do by the force of his enchantments, although this mystery was so closely concealed, that no body in the world had the least knowledge of it. As soon as he had told me this, I flattered and caressed him so much, that I was mistress of a secret he had concealed till then. There grew out of one of his little toes a frightful nail which he knew how to conceal, when he pleased, and he told me, as long as this nail was not separated from his body, he should be invincible; and even though it was separated, he knew how to join it again immediately: He told me more, for he was in a disposition to tell me every thing he was so taken with my caresses; he told me then, that he had the art to render himself so necessary, that those

those with whom he insinuated himself, could not quit his service, that by this means he made himself master of two of these spinning-wheels he had been speaking about, but it was doing of nothing however, without getting possession of the third, which was the most difficult of all to conquer. I made him so many acknowledgments after this discovery; that he did not know how to make enough of me; but seeing the air became troublesome, and the winds began to blow, he transported me along with himself to the very top of the chrystal rock, to give me the diversion of some shipwreck, which he judged the approaching storm would cause. He put into hand a spying-glass, hardly longer than my finger, and nevertheless it was so extraordinary, that one might see at fifty leagues distance the least objects as if they were present. As soon as I put it to my eye, I saw a ship in the main sea, all the crew of which seemed frightened by the tempest which threatened it, except only one man; the countenance of this man was as handsome as that of my little pilgrim, and his shape almost as advantageous as that of my great booby the genius. The storm became, all at once, so violent, that the vessel was swallowed up by the waves, without any
 one

one person being saved, except him whom I mentioned, who by incredible efforts, struggled for his life against the fury of the waves; I felt a kind of compassion, which put me almost out of myself; the Genius believed that it was the great diversion it afforded me, which transported me; he told me I had seen nothing as yet, and that he was going to divert me in another manner; after saying that, he made me sit down near him in a little wheel, which appeared all of a sudden. It was not without uneasiness that I saw him put this machine into motion to precipitate us from a place, which I thought the most elevated upon earth, into an abyss, which I dared not look upon. I had not time to make long reflexions, for in an instant I found myself in a gallery of crystal, where we entered by the place whither he hurled me the first time. From this gallery we saw distinctly all that passed upon the surface of the sea, when it was not agitated, but it was impossible to distinguish any thing then; sometime after they came to tell us, that this tempest had produced nothing but a transport ship with ten or twelve sailors, some provisions in the hold, with a fine horse. The Genius my spouse, having seen these miserable creatures, told me

me it was not worth while to re-animate such fellows as these, asked my pardon for such a mean spectacle, and to make me amends, shewed me the particulars of what I had only seen in gross the first time. This struck in with my natural curiosity, and I took an extreme pleasure in reading the histories, after having examined the portraits, and the different habits of those whose clothes were put up in these chests. The Genius charmed with the attention, with which I examined all these things, was desirous of multiplying his treasures and rarities for my amusement, for although he was jealous to the last degree, he did not restrain me, on the contrary, he was the most complaisant Genius in the world in every thing in which his love was not concerned.

He left me the faithful Harpiana to explain those things which required it, and I was very glad to prolong the looking over the chests and the frippery during his absence; he seldom lost sight of me, and if he did it was to contrive some piece of gaiety by way of diversion which surprised me sometimes, but never pleased me. I was prodigiously desirous that the sea would send us dead or alive this unfortunate person, who, only, was saved from the shipwreck





wreck, for some moments, and I had an extreme desire to see near a man, who appeared so charming at a distance, for I told you wherefore I was so curious, but it was to no purpose that I looked toward the surface of the waves ; the calm which had smoothed them did not discover him to me, and those who went every where round about the abyss where we were, found nothing but the miserable shipwreck of the vessel which had just perished. The festival the Genius gave me in these places lasted all night. The next day he entertained me with the diversion of fishing for dolphins on the shores of the island of Crystal ; nothing was a more agreeable sight than this fishing. There embarked in the gilt shallop the most charming concert of vocal and instrumental musick in the world ; as it was on the main sea, this harmonious concert was heard very plainly ; the dolphins, who are the most curious fish in the world, gathered together from every quarter, about this brilliant shallop, to view it more nearly, and as they have more taste for music than objects of lustre, they followed the concert, with a marvellous silence, without perceiving, so attentive were they, that the shallop led them insensibly into a vast inclosure of strings, which they had extend-

ed the length of the shore. Nevertheless the adventure was not extremely fatal to them, since it only cost the handsomest their liberty, whom the Genius put into superb reservoirs, in which he diverted himself in bringing up these noble fishes. At the third voyage the shallop made, one of the fishermen came to tell us, he believed they had taken the king of the dolphins, from the heaviness they felt in the threads, and the agreeable variety with which his scales glittered amongst the waves, but how great was my surprise! when instead of this magnificent fish, I saw them draw out from amidst these strings, this very man, whom I saw in the ship before the storm, and who swam so long time after, the armour with which he was covered, was enamelled with gold, azure, and an infinite number of stones of different colours. The Genius, my spouse, who knew not what generosity was, commanded the fishermen, to despoil him of his beautiful armour, and to fling him into the sea. I looked every where for my confidant Harpiana, to beg of her to put off the execution of this order, by the influence she had over the mind of the Genius; but I could no where see her, and as I was going to speak, myself, they told us that this man had still some
remains

remains of life, and the Genius, who wanted to learn his history, that it might be wrote upon the chest, in which they put his attire, gave them orders to succour him : It was giving me life, the saving his, so much did I pity him. The succour they gave him, was so speedy, that he opened his eyes, recovered his spirits, and was well in less than an hour.

He appeared surprised at the figure of the Genius but not at all frightened ; he immediately comprehended that all he saw in these enchanted places was in the power of this figure ; he turned his eyes toward me, but he immediately looked another way ; judging rightly, that we were both of us in the power of him, who observed us nearly : I do not know how he found himself by his looks, but I was quite spoiled by it, he made a compliment to my spouse on the relief he had received, and without having any thing low or base in him was full of gratitude, and very engaging. He appeared quite calm ; as for me, I found myself so much in spirits that I was ready to fall backward. After that, without waiting for being asked, he told us that the desire of approving himself in a famous adventure, which nobody knew of but himself, had obliged him to embark at

the port of Florispahan, to render himself near Mouffelline the serious, less upon account of her fine eyes, than for the glory this adventure offered in the midst of so many dangers, that the fourth day of his navigation, a dreadful storm had caused his ship with all the people in it to perish, without being able to imagine how the waves had put him near these hospitable banks to find succour ; that as to the rest, he should not be sorry at being shipwrecked, since this small misfortune had thrown him upon the territories of the most magnificent and best made prince in the world, if it was not that he saw a woman (which was of all in the world what he had the most aversion to.) This discourse and his way of behaviour, could not fail of pleasing my Genius, who was the fondest animal in the world of praise, and the most susceptible of jealousy ; and from that moment he took so much pleasure in his conversation, that he could not leave him. He affected to avoid me every where, and far from looking at me when the Genius, who seldom quitted me, made him come where I was, he turned his back without saying a word to me. That put me into despair, for the more I imagined by all these incivilities that he hated me, the more desirous I was
of

of pleasing him. The Genius was ready to die with laughing, seeing the constraint, my presence laid upon him; he told him of his aversion to a sex, which caused so much happiness to men, and that if he only looked at me a moment his aversion would go off. He never after quitted the place where I was, as if they had proposed him something horrible. At length they importuned him so much that he would look at me, upon condition they should not speak to him any more about it. I was on the reserve also on my side, as well to shew my indignation to the stranger, as to set myself off with a feigned delicacy in presence of my spouse, and so well did I act it, that he was obliged to put himself behind me to hold my head with his two hands for fear I should avoid the looks of his new favourite. O what had I lost, if I had avoided them! For while this ass of a Genius tormented body and soul to make his wife ogle, the eyes of the charming stranger performed their part, they informed me that he was ready to die for love of me, and that all these marks of aversion were only a game he played. This first scene finished, he imagined that he triumphed, and asked the stranger how he found himself, so bad, says he, that if that should

happen often, I should become mad, and perhaps my ravings might not spare the Goddess your wife in their first transports. I thought I understood these menances, and from that moment I perceived in myself a violent desire to see the effects of these transports, with which I was threatned, and all through curiosity; nevertheless the Genius quite astonished, that the insensibility of his heart instead of yielding to this trial, had only changed into fury, told him that he would not be made a liar of, that he was resolved to make him see that such a woman as I was, was not a creature with whom he was allowed to fall into a passion with; and that since the charms of my face had done nothing, those of my person from head to feet should compass. Judge Seigneur if the extravagancy of a jealous man could go further? Our charming guest affected a blush at this proposition, and did not fail to ask leave to go, rather than see himself exposed every day to those compliances of which he was incapable; the stupid Genius with a design to deceive him, assured him they would leave him at rest, and that there should be no more said of me or my charms, since his pretension would give him so much horror for a thing which he had desired of him, alone, in the

the whole world; and this is the way he was caught.

He caused to be made a chest of crystal like to that which you see; he placed it in the magazine of shipwrecks among others, after having covered it with a curtain of green taffety, embroidered with gold; that done, he communicated to me his design, which was to shut me up there quite naked, so that, however, no body but himself could open it for fear of an accident. I was ready to die with desire to communicate this fine project to the stranger, but I never could bring it to bear; always beset as I was, by my Genius who never left me; but as the stranger had more wit and penetration than all the strangers in the world. I do not doubt but he had divined something of what they had premeditated to surprise him. Every thing being disposed for this new scene, the Genius bethought himself (to bring him more easily) to ask his illustrious guest, if he had not provided himself with arms for this expedition, according to the custom of other adventurers, the other told him that he very well remembered that he was armed the day of his shipwreck, but he did not know what was become of them, excepting his sword which they had the civility to leave him.

Well says the Genius, I will shew you to-morrow the only place you have not seen yet, since you was here, perhaps you may hear some news of your arms in this place, at least you will see something sufficiently worthy of your attention; I will leave you there alone for fear my presence should oblige you to hurry over the examination of many rarities which it is better to view leisurely; for I will lay a wager that you have never seen any thing more curious than what are contained in those chests, where you see the portraits, and the names on the outside. As for me, says the stranger, I will lay you a wager, of all those names, there is none so curious as mine; and what is there in it, says my Genius, to make it so curious? Novelty, answers he, for I am called Facardin, and there is not another name of this kind in the whole world. Oh! as to that I agree with you, says the Genius, but my friend Facardin, since Facardin is your name, you shall agree with me as to the rest. The next day my jealous spouse himself shut me up in the crystal chest, in the situation I have told you, after having a good deal enlarged on the surprise the stranger would be in, and the pleasure I should have in seeing his astonishment. But I was vexed
to

to the utmost degree to see that this chest was transparent to no purpose, since it could not be opened neither within nor without, the curtain was drawn above, and the Genius pressed his guest to go into the hall, where I was shut up, after having faithfully kept his promise in going out himself. My heart beat with impatience, notwithstanding my grief when I saw myself shut up, without remedy, especially when I considered that the handsome Faccardin might easily forget my chest, in examining others, or might not bethink himself to draw aside the curtain that concealed it, but I was not very long under this uneasiness. He came presently to it, and not to lose the time my animal thought he would take in surveying the rest, he drew aside my curtain, and appeared so charmed at the manner in which I was exposed to his view, that after some slight efforts, to deliver me in a more quiet manner, he broke this prison into a thousand pieces by two strokes of his sword. As he did not pretend to have done me this service in vain, and as I had a heart filled with a generous acknowledgment, all his curiosity was restrained from visiting the wonders, which they had been mighty desirous of his taking notice of; and mine was so satisfied by it,

that I believed the merit of all the pilgrims and all the Genii on earth was inclosed in the only Facardin there was in the world. We compared notes in order to be able to give something of a reason for the destruction of my chest, and after what manner we ought to conduct ourselves afterward, but this last precaution was quite useless, as you will see presently. The charming stranger drew his beautiful armour from the place where I told him it was, and having put it on, I thought I saw the God Mars, who departing from the beautiful Venus, took away with him all the charms of her son; he was almost as big as the Genius, as I have told you, but his fine shape was no ways injured by his size. He went from the hall of chests, sword in hand, the Genius who returned was surpris'd to see him completely armed, but he was still more so, when complaining to him of the trick which they had played him, he told him that after having drawn the green curtain, he had been so provoked at seeing a statue of a woman without clothes, that in the first emotions of his anger he had broke the nich in pieces, and that he believed this statue very much damaged by the stroke of the sword which he had given it. There needed nothing more to alarm my amorous
Genius,

Genius, who without making him any answer ran to my assistance. I was quite flat upon the ground, where I made as if I swooned away when he came, but seeing I had no wound, his fears ceased ; and when I had strength to recover from my swooning, he split his sides with laughing at my recital of the fury of the stranger, and the horrible fright his brutal transport had put me in ; he was not however content without examining all the charms with which I was furnished before the breaking of my chest ; for the great folly of my spouse was that all the world knew the price of a treasure of which he alone was in possession, and I knew by his looks he was resolved to put us together again by some new stratagem ; but fortune disposed it otherwise ; the charming Facardin appeared no more after that day neither in this island where we are, nor in the crystal rock, although they went every where for a month together to seek after him.

I fell into such a grief upon it, that I was hardly known, the merit of him whose absence I regretted, was very capable of producing this effect ; nevertheless curiosity seemed to have had the greatest share in it, and I could not console myself at not being able to know if this stranger would be as

agreeable at a second interview, as he had appeared at the first. As the complaisance of my Genius toward me did not at all diminish the grief I was in, it made him uneasy; he took it then into his head that the change of air would recover me, and travelling divert me; I was delighted with this scheme, but I was not satisfied with the precautions he took in putting it into execution; for he made a chest of crystal like to the former, and it is the very same you see; he shut me up in it entirely dressed upon his back, and began his travels along the bottom of the sea: We went out of it to repose and to refresh ourselves in the most delicious places on the shore. He did not fail to take me out of my case on these occasions, and to sleep with his head on my knees so soundly, that I had a great deal of difficulty to awaken him when it was time to go. I was in hopes that during our travels fortune would let me have some news of the excellent Facardin; but as nothing offered to satisfy my impatience, and as I was exasperated to serve for a bolster to this great mastiff of a Genius, who did nothing but snore; my natural curiosity came to my assistance, she asked me how I could contrive to deceive a jealous creature, who carried me packed upon his back, when he

was

was awake, and who never slept but upon me ? I answered her she should see ; for this purpose I presently employed myself in drawing away my body from under him without awaking him, and seeing that nothing was more easy, and that I walked whole hours without his dreaming of removing from the place where I had put his villainous head ; I made another trial the first opportunity that offered ; I found that so pleasant, as well for the rarity of the deed as the vengeance, that my curiosity always fruitful in new ideas, persuaded me not to cease till I had carried these trials to the hundredth infidelities, assuring me that I should divert myself extremely at the different excuses and mean fears of all those whom the presence of the Genius should frighten. I had about me this key-chain which you see so full of rings, and they belonged to persons who have assisted me in my infidelities, each of whom behaved with a very bad grace in the world ; but above all the two last, who were the basest, and the most cowardly wretches in the whole world.

What is that you say, friend Trebizonde, says the Sultan interrupting him, Seigneur, continued the other, I said that the virtuous Crystalline having carried on her adventures

tures to the ninety-eight, told me that the two which furnished the two last rings were miserable wretches who died through fear ; she lied in that, says the Sultan, but go on with your story, we will talk of that another time. The prince of Trebizonde, in obedience to his sovereign, said that the nymph of the rock thus went on : My key-chain having completed the number of rings I determined to put upon it, I was weary of deceiving such a stupid jealous wretch, and I was determined to give some other amusement to my curiosity ; but fortune who had favoured me hitherto, turned her back, when I least thought of it. We were upon our return after four months and some minutes, I was not sorry to see myself in a prison less close, than that which I had been in during my travels. The rock of silver, the pavillion where we are, and the palace of shipwrecks by their variety present to me every where something entertaining ; but of all these habitations the hall of chests was that which was the most agreeable to me, as it brought to my mind the remembrance of the marvellous Facardin. I one day shut up myself there to talk with Harpiana about it : This girl never saw him, but as she was in my interests, she was ready to die with eagerness

ness to see him, on account of the wonders which I told her of his make, and the genteelness of his carriage. We did not know how to contrive to get intelligence of him; for notwithstanding her wit, and the schemes my curiosity furnished me with, we could never bring it to bear, surrounded as we were by the sea. If you had a sword, said she, I would go in search of him myself. And why must there be a sword? said I to her. The reason is, replied she, because the gilt shallop is the only vessel in these places, and this shallop is immoveable, except when the Genius touches it himself, or when one enters it, sword in hand; as we had neither of these means, we thought no more of that. I do not know how it was that I had got together a fine collection of rings, which I had always about me, without it ever coming into my head to examine them. This unfortunate curiosity seized me one day, and the Genius surprised me in the midst of this occupation. I was quite confounded; my embarrassment gave him a suspicion, he was astonished at this great number of rings, and asked me where I had got them. As I saw him quite altered while he asked me this question, I plainly perceived it was his own jealousy which gave rise to it, and as there was not
in

in the world a beast so villainous and so terrible at the same time, as a jealous creature when he interrogates, I flung myself upon my knees, to ask pardon for a crime I had not committed, in order to conceal that which I had been guilty of ; I told him then, that I had stole these rings from the chests of the drowned persons. This redoubled his suspicion ; for he himself had collected together all these rings which he had locked up elsewhere, the number of which did not amount to more than fifteen or twenty, instead of which he found a full hundred on the key-chain which he snatched from me. He examined them all one after another, without finding that which he seemed to look for, and seeing that I did not know what to say to excuse myself after this first lie, he divined so well all the circumstances of my transgressions, that he pronounced my sentence immediately ; he condemned me then to be burnt alive at the end of one year, if I did not find before that term some adventurer, who could in one night only draw out from my key-chain, all the rings I had put there during the year of our travels ; all human efforts could not move them off but one by one, and it was only the method by which I had got them, which could stir them from the place

place where so much care had been taken to fasten them before these trials.

There is the decree of the monster, his ministers were charged with the execution of it: He disappeared after that day, on account of some expedition, which I don't recollect now; and from that day most of those whom the gilt shallop brought hither, have basely refused to attempt an adventure, where by a little trouble, they might have an opportunity of saving my life. I had always been in hopes, that among those of whom Harpiana went every where to implore success; the invincible Facardin might be found, persuaded that he would put an end to this adventure, but I in vain flattered myself without it; fortune refused it to all my wishes; she had to this day presented me with nothing but unlucky wretches, who would rather chuse the cloathing the and the occupation you see them in for the rest of their life, than to regard only the adventure in question, after having seen me go out of the bath. They have without doubt informed you of the rest of the conditions, and of every thing relating to it; the time presses, you know in what this adventure consists, there remains no more but to consult your heart upon it, in order to fix the time for your going to bed; twelve hours,

hours, which are allowed you, are sufficient for a man made like you to save my life. Such was the narrative of the adventures of the modest CrySTALLINE: Such was the proposition which she made at the close of her history; and this was my answer, word for word; I have sworn to do my utmost to serve you, but I have not sworn to make love instead of making war; it would be as easy for me, without vanity, to put an end to the adventure, after the manner proposed, as by force of arms; but as glory invites me to the one, and your person, all wonderful as you think it, does not at all, invite me to the other; I will make a passage, with my arms in my hand, through your slayer, your clock-maker, your lock-smith, and your Moorish women, your busy companion Harpiana, her other companion, and finally across all the mob drawn up in these places. Take then the course you like best; if it is that of following me, I secure you from the punishment prepared for you at the hazard of my life; if on the contrary, that of staying here, I declare to you, you shall be the first whose head I will cut off if they attack me. The lady in bed appeared more dead than alive at this menace; she jumped out of bed on the ground, embraced my knees, and told me

she

she asked for nothing better than to follow me throughout the world; but she conjured me to hearken to the advice she gave me to facilitate my enterprise. At these words she put on a night-gown, set herself on the bed, and told me that she was going to ring three different times, that at the first he who regulates the pedulum would not fail to come to set the hour, when he was to begin the trial; that at the second time, the locksmith would come to see how they had taken the rings from the key chain, and that at the third, I should see the priest with a great beard run to deliver me, if I was rendered worthy of it by the accomplishment of the trials, or to drag me into the hands of his ministers, while he waited to slay me, in case I undertook the adventure without completing it; that these three persons were the principal, the most dangerous, and most cruel of all those whom the Genius her spouse had left to guard her, and execute his orders; that having drawn them into the place where we were, one after another, as she told me, I should dispose of them as I thought proper; nevertheless, as you have sufficiently experienced that the enchanted key chain cannot be opened by force; perhaps you may be in doubt whether it can be effected by

by gentle methods, therefore your curiosity may be satisfied on this head, before you come to the other extremity. Ring, ring, Madam Cristalline, says I to her, I am not naturally so curious as you.

Oh, what a fine thing it is to speak well! says the Sultan, I believe I should have done entirely as you did, for the more curious women are, the more we should let them see, we are exempt from this weakness; but go on, for this seems to me so diverting, that I could spend my life in hearing it, you was then in a night-gown, night-cap, slippers, and sword in hand at the bolster of the nymph of crystal, when you told her to ring, you see that I remember every thing; well, what afterward? Afterward, says Trebizonde, I rose up in the equipage your prudent Highness spoke of, and posting myself exactly near the door of the pavilion, in such a manner, as those gentlemen could not see me who had not entered, the curious lady rang, the man with the pendulum did not fail to enter, and I did not fail to cut off his head; I did as much for the locksmith, and as I made a sign to the nymph to ring for the priest, she lift up her right-hand, and speaking to me with the fingers of this very hand, she told me two officers, I had dispatched

patched, ought according to the functions of their office, to enter soon after one another, the one to regulate the hour, the other to count the rings taken off the key-chain, and that they had the privilege of staying in the tent from the beginning of the trial to the end ; but that it was a jest to ring so soon the third time, since it was not likely it would be believed that the adventure was finished in so little a time, and still less that they should be in a hurry for his coming without its being completed ; her advice was to wait three or four hours, during which we should have as much time as was requisite to make an opening behind the pavillion, through which it would be less difficult to save ourselves during the darkness of the night, than through the door always surrounded with a vast number of armed men. After this discourse she kissed the hand with which she had discoursed with me.

As I held my sword in my right hand, I answered her with my left (for I speak with equal ease with one as the other) I answered her then, that Facardin of Trebizonde was not accustomed to go out at a back door to avoid danger, that I had nothing to do with her opening to get rid of the affair ; and that if she had not the civility to ring presently,

presently, to make her executioner of a pontif come, I was determined to go and seek him, to send him after his two companions. I had no sooner ceased speaking, that is to say, moving my fingers, but hers began to speak and to tell me, that since such was my resolution, she begged of me at least to take one of these spinning-wheels, and to put it on my left arm to serve for a buckler, the more as the attendants which opposed my passage, had so much veneration for these machines, that they would rather lose their life than hazard the breaking them, so precious were they to the Genius their sovereign master. This advice did not displease me so much as the two former ; and as soon as I layed hold of the first spinning-wheel, the virtuous Crystalline leaped from the bed on the ground, took the other, and advised me to go out, instead of waiting for the enemy, because we might take him unprovided, dreaming of nothing less than this rash sally. I did not contradict her in it ; we quitted without further delay the tent of Darius ; the surprise of the armed people who surrounded it was such that I killed five or six before they had time to recollect themselves ; the rest fled shrieking out in a frightful manner ; I pursued them a little too warmly ;

ly ; for the priest whom I had left behind while I thought him before me, quitted the altar, which he had prepared for me, with a dozen of his ministers, who carried each a large chain to chain me with. Crystalline gave me notice of it by a great scream, which caused me to return ; they dared not approach her because she covered herself with the respectable spinning-wheel ; and above this protection, she spun when she was too much pressed, which the most resolute of our enemies dared not to look on without prostrating their face on the earth ; it was in one of these humiliations that I cut off the head of the wretched high-priest, without paying any regard to his long beard, or his character. After this exploit the remainder was rather a rout than a fight ; I killed all I could come up with without troubling myself with taking prisoners ; and crossing the rock of crystal without the least obstacle, I made the spouse of the Genius enter the gilt shallop ; I went in after her, and as soon as I was in the shallop sailed, like a fool, without asking us whither we wanted to go, I will not conceal from your highness that my joy was so great at having put an end to this adventure, that I did not recollect my arms till I had got into the main sea. It was a
 fort

fort of reproach to leave them in this place
 by a kind of precipitate retreat ; and not
 willing that the Genius at his return should
 erect them for a trophy, I wanted to make
 the shallop return from whence we set out,
 but it would not by any means ; and in
 spite of all my efforts we landed at a shore
 where we found good company, as you
 will see in what follows of this narrative. I
 told you of the despair I was in at not be-
 ing able to return to the rock of crystal to
 recover my arms, it was quite another thing
 when I saw the shallop make in a direct line
 to this shore, there was a vast number of
 people along it ; persons on horseback su-
 perbly armed were moving about, and I
 saw at a distance tents and pavillions ex-
 tended to the middle of a meadow, with
 trees set very thick about it, the leaves of
 which seemed to form a delicious shade.
 The people and gentlemen surprised at the
 sight of us ran to the very brink of the
 sea, from whence beholding us with their
 telescopes, they discovered their astonish-
 ment in proportion as we approached the
 shore ; I was so provoked to see myself ob-
 liged to land in the midst of this assembly
 with a young lady almost in her shift, my-
 self sword in hand in a night-gown, in slip-
 pers, and having nothing but two spinning-
 wheels

wheels for all our baggage, that I was tempted to fling myself out of this hateful shallop into the midst of the sea, that I might not land in this situation. We were obliged to land however ; I was in confusion enough to raise pity ; I held down my head, I did not dare to lift up my eyes, and I did not know where to hide myself ; but lady Crystalline was not so much out of countenance ; she no sooner landed with her spinning-wheel, but she set herself to spinning, and although they did not pay the same respect to this spinning, as they had done in the isle of the Pavilion ; all who saw us land did not fail to assemble about her. I expected we should be heartily laughed at and made a jest of, but seeing quite the contrary, I took courage ; I lift up my eyes, and was surprised to see that all the men of distinction were equipped, at least, as ridiculous, and entirely as whimsical as myself, although after different manners. Three of those whom I had seen on horseback alighted to receive me ; and two of the three cried out with astonishment at Crystalline, and presently after made her burst out a laughing ; I kept her company : He who first accosted me said civilly, that I had nothing to do but to spin myself. He was the largest and best

made man I had ever seen. He wore upon his head a kettle instead of an helmet, and a large spit hung by his side in the manner of a sword; as to the rest his armour shone all over with gold, azure, and precious stones. This dress with the seriousness with which he addressed me would have made a man at a whipping-post laugh. I do not ask you at all, says he, from whence you come; the gilt shallop, the princess who is with you, and your sword still stained with the blood of some formidable enemy, makes me sensible that you are one of the valiantest men in the world in war as well as in love; I compliment you on it; but in the adventure you come to attempt, it is not enough to be a hero, a man must be facetious. So I advise you to take the spinning-wheel out of the hands of your companion, and to spin a little yourself before us. I did not know how to take this raillery, when she whom he called my companion ran to him with open arms, saying to him: Ah my dear and well-beloved Faccardin! fortune at length restores you to all the impatience of my first curiosity. Crystalline the Curious, says he, pushing her from him, there are other times, other cares; it is not your present business: Is there a climate in the world but what is informed

formed of the conditions of an enchantment, which this formidable Chevalier has broke, and what curiosity in the whole world which is not satisfied? The good Crystalline appeared a little mortified at this reception, but she did not lose her courage; she run with the same eagerness toward the other, but it was with the same success; he did not vouchsafe so much as to look at her, and thrusting her away still more rudely than the first had done, he turned toward me to speak to me; he was more beautiful than the day, and here is the description of his appearance. His forehead was girt with a slip of leather in form of a diadem; in this slip rose up a vast number of floating feathers; he wore a cuirass of shining brass, under this cuirass a thick leathern apron; he held in one hand an awl, in the other the form of a shoe, and at the end a kind of chain composed of a little cord, pitched all over, hung a shoeing horn, every thing of the most vulgar kind; at the time he opened his mouth to speak to me, the third came to pay his respects to me, I saw very plainly that this third was not of the acquaintance of the nymph Crystalline, for her curiosity had nothing to tell him, nevertheless his figure and dress were enough to excite the curiosity of any other. He

was of a very moderate size, not to say very little; he wore an helmet which perfectly represented the head of a cock, whose comb served for a crest; on each arm he had a kind of buckler covered with feathers, and laying these two bucklers across his back, they looked exactly like the wings of a cock; his cuirass covered also with the same feathers, formed the stomach of the bird; a thick tuft of long feathers turned up as if they rose out of his back, and both his legs were armed with a gilt spur above the ankle bone; and that nothing might be wanting in his resemblance of that which he was willing to represent, he fluttered thrice his bucklers disguised in the form of wings, and thrice imitated so perfectly the crowing of a cock, that there was not a hen in the world but might be mistaken. As I could imagine all that he wanted to say, I prevented the questions they were on the point of asking me, to beg them to tell me in what part of the world we were? What so many figures disguised in such a different manner could mean? And why those three in particular had taken it in their heads to dress themselves so emblematically?

It is not likely, says the great Facardin, that you are ignorant of the occasion of it,
since

since from the manner of your placing yourself here, you are come hither on the same design; we were the last that came, before your arrival, it belongs to us to ask you, if you would engage in the adventure, before you are informed of the nature of it; if you consent to it, you shall be one of us, if not, you shall have all that is necessary to continue your rout else where. I told them, that I desired nothing better than to signalize myself with them, in some adventure, let it be what it would, and I gave them my word on it. Since that is the case, says he, who wore the shoeing horn, as a medal, it belongs to me as the last comer of the three to receive you, to conduct, to inform you of what we are about in these places, and to begin to give you the first account of the adventures which brought me hither; but not if you please, till after you have refreshed yourself in one of the pavilions which you see under these trees, and have reposed yourself: few people are ignorant of the enchantment of the crystal rock, you have put an end to the adventure of the key-chain in delivering the lady there; come get rid of your fatigues, and while she spins near you, I will tell you news of the Genius her spouse, which will not fail to surprise you.

This compliment ended, Messieurs, the three Chevaliers, asked for their horses, and showed them to me, decked out with very rich trappings. The cock mounted the first, and I thought I should have died with laughing, when I saw him on horseback, such a figure, and that after having clapped his wings, he set himself to crowing for his horse startled at these actions, capered about in such a manner, that the nymph Cristalline whom they had put on horseback behind me, following the custom of those places, had the vapours so considerably by laughing, that we had all the difficulty in the world to bring her to herself; as soon as she had recollected herself, beautiful lady, says the cock to her, I am infinitely obliged to you; but I am very much afraid that it will not at all succeed when it comes to be tried. As for you, valiant Chevalier, says he to me, I advise you to take the spinning wheel out of her hands; and to spin as usual, as usual says I to him, account me a traitor an infamous person if I ever spun in my life. It does not signify, says he, who was appointed my master of the ceremonies, and who wore the leather apron, it is good to practice it. Having said that, he gave orders for the bringing the rest of my equipage, that is to say the
other

other spinning-wheel, and that they should conduct the gilt shallop through the mouth of the next river, to the banks where they had erected the pavilion.

As soon as we began to march, we began again to examine the strangers and myself, from head to foot; it was at my tongue's end, to ask them again, what was the reason of their wearing the disguise of the last carnival, when the Chevalier of the owl, guessing what I was about to say, I plainly see, says he, that it was not a premeditated design, to land here in the equipage you are in; nor was that the case in respect to us; and since you appear surprised at our arms, and equipment, you are apparently ignorant of the adventure you are about to engage in; I am going to inform you of it, to instruct you in all the particulars, and to set before your eyes, the dangers and the recompence. The king of Astracan, one of the most powerful princes of Asia, whether considered as to the extent of his dominions, the mines of gold and silver they contain, or in fine the manufacturies of painted linen, which render him famous, believed himself the most unfortunate of all men, in the midst of so much grandeur and prosperity, because he had no children to inherit after him.

him. The Queen his wife was pretty, young, and well-shaped, of a good height, and healthy, that one could not have believed the King had any cause of affliction ; as he loved her to distraction, he took nothing amiss from her, or was offended that she laughed at his uneasiness from morning to night ; and at all the pains he took to procure a successor, for all the temples, and all their ministers were employed in offering of vows and sacrifices for a blessing so ardently desired. The King, who only thought himself culpable of his misfortune, continually bathed himself, purged, went to the waters, and in fine, did all that is prescribed to women, to bring on fruitfulness ; the Queen was ready to die with laughing at his vows, offerings, and sacrifices, which they were so lavish of, every where, to no purpose ; the worst of it was, that in so general a consternation she was the only one who seemed to insult the public grief. The poor princess did not do it through malice, the only fault she had was to be the greatest gigler of the age, every thing made her laugh, and nothing could stop it ; the King her spouse had had many wars with neighbouring princes on this subject ; for as soon as they sent an account of any melancholy accident, as the death of an only son,

son, she answered the ambassadors who came with clokes trailing on the ground, by bursting out a laughing, which made them go from the audience to send long dispatches to their masters, quite full of complaints and indignation, that the law of nations, and the majesty of sovereigns, were violated in their persons; this distemper increasing, the King resolved, by the advice of his council, that she should go a pilgrimage to the famous oracle of the cock, but that she should go, as is usual on those occasions, with a small retinue, and as the temple of this oracle is at the gates of Fourchimena, the capital of the kingdom of Bactria, she went there, disguising her name and quality to avoid the ceremonies and magnificence of receptions.

The King who followed her, incognito, was desirous himself to lay open the subject of this journey to the priestess of the temple, and while he was consulting her about the Queen's wants, she was ready to split her sides with laughing, the priestess was very much provoked at it, nevertheless, after some gambols, and contortions, the oracle pronounced the following sentence on the part of the cock: 'What the pilgrim desires shall happen to the pilgrim. The pilgrim will be brought to bed, but

she will laugh a good deal in the season for laughter, which will cause the infant to laugh.' The beginning of this answer was not obscure at all, but the end embarrassed a little the conjectures and reasonings of the speculists. Nevertheless, the oracle kept his word, and kept it so well, that the Queen at the end of nine months, brought into the world a son and a daughter, one more beautiful than the other, and both of them handsomer than all the infants of the world are at their birth, but it cost the poor Queen her life, who died a laughing in her lying-in. The King comforted himself by the children she left him, and by the pleasure of being able to breath in his own palace, without being continually deafened by immoderate breakings out into laughter. But his destiny was not to enjoy a long time a tranquil happiness; at the end of six months, a fire broke out, in the middle of the night, in the apartment of his dear hopes; he run thither at the first alarm, and though every one did their utmost after his example, and run across the flames to save his infants, the conflagration spread so fast, and was so terrible, that they could only get out his daughter, most of the officers of his household, who to shew their zeal, stayed till the last extremity in
fire

the fire and smoak, returned half broiled without being able to save the little prince.

This loss spread sorrow throughout all his dominions, and the king absolutely refused any consolation upon it ; but time, which brings comfort for every thing, insensibly wore out his grief, by augmenting the charms of the princess his daughter ; she was the living image of the queen her mother, excepting her looking more grand and being fairer, and having a more advantageous shape, and her eyes a thousand times more brilliant, and she is at present, if we may believe those who have seen her, a thousand times handsomer than all the beauties in the whole world ; but alas ! continued he with a great sigh, it is certain that those who talk in this manner, have never seen all the beauties of the earth. After this reflection he remained some moments buried in a profound reverie, from which he at length came out to resume his discourse. The king more dazzled with her charms than all his people, and the whole court, continually admired himself in his own work, and judging her worthy of all the crowns in the world, did not in the least think of a second marriage to deprive her of his, but as his star did not permit him to enjoy a perfect happiness, this

wonderful princess, whose looks were armed with darts and fire, whose whole person and least motions were accompanied with a grace quite lively and animated, had never opened her mouth to laugh or speak, and it was only when she cried, which was often enough, that they saw her gums, the most of the colour of vermillion, and her teeth the whitest ever seen. The good king who during the infancy of his daughter had never ceased to offer up his praises to heaven, for not having the fault of her mother, would have given the half of his kingdom, when she was grown up, to see her laugh all day and night too, so tired was he of a seriousness which appeared to him insupportable. There was nothing spared to make her break a silence which grieved the whole world, and to draw her from a seriousness, which seemed to afflict her own self, for they saw very well by her ways that she had been diverted with every thing without any thing making her laugh ; all the philosophers, all the chymists, all the teachers of singing birds, all the masters of language, and preceptors of all the parrots whom they taught to speak, lost their time with her ; it was the same thing in respect to his serious one, they had assembled together all the buffoons and all
the

the merry fellows, good as well as bad in the kingdom, they had even brought from China the most excellent company of comedians there, who are the best in the whole world for farce, without all that being able to make her once smile. Nevertheless as misfortunes which appear without remedy are sometimes followed by a disaster still more fatal, there happened an accident, which presently rendered the king, the court, and all the province, at least as serious, as well as the beautiful princess; she loved all kinds of diversions, and above all that of hunting; a superb house situated in the midst of a delicious forest, and distant a little day's journey from the capital, was the residence she made choice of for this exercise, she sat firmer on a horse than an Amazon, was more beautiful in a hunting habit than Diana herself, and without comparison more genteel.

One day when her eagerness of pursuit had carried her much further than ordinary, and was fatigued with too much slaying or pursuing the inhabitants of the woods, she found herself on the brink of a river, which run across the forest, and the very same by the mouth of which your shallop is to join us on the shore where we
are

are going ; the waters of this river are at least as clear as those of the river where the great Alexander had liked to have lost his life ; as they knew the qualities of them, they did not at all oppose the desire the princess had to refresh herself ; she flung herself in all covered with sweat and dust, without waiting for their erecting the magnificent pavilion of painted linen with a gold border, which they were accustomed to set up on these occasions ; all the men in her retinue retired a great way off before she undressed, but two ladies and four maids of honour, who by order of the king her father always staid with her, the most perpetual prattlers in the kingdom, having jumped into the river, and ranged themselves near her, the banks of the river and the rocks about presently resounded with the most immoderate babling that ever was ; for my part, I am persuaded instead of learning to speak, by hearing them talk so much, as was the king's design, the poor princess tired by their great fluency of speech, had made a vow to be dumb all her life, that she might not resemble them ; however that may be, she was presently obliged to get a new retinue : For while the divine princess was refreshing the finest body in the world in the most clear

clear and most delicious water that ever was, these tatlers set themselves all at once to praising of her ; one said that the god of this river was the most stupid fish in the world, to see the most complete beauty in the whole world in his bed, without discovering the least sign of life ; another cried out, that Jupiter was apparently grown very old, since he did not make use of any metamorphosis to pay his homage to a mortal more charming than all the goddesses ; he who transformed himself into a swan and into a bull, for creatures who would look like kitchen maids, near a beauty who shone with a hundred thousand charms through the muslin with which she was covered. It is not known whether it was the god of the river, stunned with their babbling, or that of Olympus provoked at their insolence, and desirous to punish them for it ; but whomsoever it was, the waves rushed on and carried them away all at once, and as they endeavoured to gain the shore for fear of being drowned, they saw behind them a monster, whose enormous size filled all the space between them and the other shore ; it was in vain they attempted to climb up the banks of the river, although the water began to be smooth, they were drawn in by the rapidity of the current,

rent, and presently swallowed down, like so many frogs, the vast mouth of the crocodile who followed them close.

The princess who had seen the tragical end of her ladies and maids of honour, was less inclined to laugh than ever, as the monster, after having amused himself in having his teeth cleansed by a certain fish which follows him every where for that purpose, came in a direct line toward her ; her first intention was to leap over the banks of the river, by the favour of the waves, which had drove her thither already, and to take her bow and arrows to defend herself, and attack the crocodile ; but seeing that all the men who had retired through respect before she went into the water, were reassembled there at the cries of those unfortunate women, when she wanted to go out, her modesty judged it not proper to expose herself to their sight covered only with wet gauze ; in this extremity pulling off her shift which hindered her from swimming at liberty, she made the utmost efforts to save herself from the crocodile, but as he was not but about ten steps from her, she despaired of escaping him, when perceiving her shift floating on the water, he seized it, and as he was content with this precious booty, he left off pursuing the
the

the beautiful princess, and disappeared as suddenly as they had seen him appear.

The river which run over its banks while he was in it, returned into its channel, that made them suppose that he would not come back there at least for this time. The princess being naked only let her head be seen above water ; all that remained of her retinue consisted of the men who had run thither upon hearing the cries of the poor ladies, whom the crocodile had devoured ; she made signs to get ready one of the superb pavillions at some distance from the river ; as soon as that was done, she made a sign to them to retire, to leave her at liberty to go out of the water ; she presently got to the pavillion, and having put on all her clothes, except her shift, she took her arms, and having joined her retinue, who had retired by her orders, she mounted on horseback, and while she repaired to the magnificent palace from whence she went in the morning, many couriers were dispatched to court to inform the king of her adventure. He set out directly, all his court followed him, and as soon as day-break he came to a daughter, whom he loved more than his life, and the danger which she had escaped, seemed to render her more dear than ever. He cried with
joy

joy in embracing her, then he swooned away with terror at the story that was told of the crocodile ; he carried back again the princess the same day, for fear he should bethink himself of making a second visit, and that he might find means of going out of the water, to make the same ravage on land. The rejoicings which they made in the city for the return of the princess, and her deliverance, were not universal ; those whom the concern of blood, or that of tenderness affected for the beauties which the monster had devoured, were inconsolable for their loss ; and above all the lovers who continually demanded of the king permission to go to the banks, and about the river to its very mouth, to revenge the death of their divinities, by that of this vile crocodile : He consented at last, as soon as he had resolved to send some engineers to the mouth of the river, to shut it up by some work from the approaches of this monster, with orders however to keep along the banks of the river in its course toward the sea, that they might not shut him in it, instead of defending the entry ; the adventurers serving for an escort to the engineers, having separated themselves into two troops, marched on the two banks of the river from the place where the crocodile had

had appeared the first time, and cursed their fortune that they had already gone half the course of the river, without having any news of what they fought after, when those who went along the bank on the right side met with a morass, which obliged them to take a great tour about, whilst they getting themselves ready for it, they saw those who marched on the opposite bank precipitate themselves into the middle of the river, they saw a piece of linen float, and not doubting but their companions had seen the monster, they flung themselves into the river after them, and the perfidious crocodile, who lay in ambuscade in the reeds of the morass, laid hold of them, and served them all as he had done their relations or their mistresses. The engineers with their workmen, who had no business to signalize themselves by actions of valour or rashness, returned, without learning any thing of the fate of the poor adventurers. While they deplored their loss, as they had done that of their deceased mistresses, they learnt that this vile crocodile kept no measures in the ravages he made; he had made desolate both sides of the river, by devouring the cattle and the shepherds, who knowing nothing of the adventure, drove their flocks thither to water as usual. Presently after
they

they found the abundance of provisions in the city, and that profusion of the most rare and uncommon things which serve for the luxury and magnificence of capitals, and which that river brought from all parts of the world, diminish ; the monster concealed, as we have said, amongst the thickest place of the reeds, where he had posted himself, with one jump from the morass into the river, sunk all the vessels which went up it with their merchandizes, and the miserable wretches who navigated them became his prey ; one cannot tell whether he had ever heard that women are naturally more tender than men, but it is certain, he had a greater greediness for the fair sex than for men. The king of Astracan was overwhelmed with so many misfortunes coming upon him one after another, that he knew not what to do ; nevertheless he was not acquainted yet with all his misfortunes. The beautiful princess, who at her return, out of three hundred and sixty times fourteen dozen of shifts, which her mistress of the robes had the keeping of, could not find even one, could never get a single one made that would suit her. After having exhausted the magazines of city and suburbs of linen, she was reduced to go without a shift, which was what gave her
more

more uneasiness, than any thing in the world ; all the new shifts which she had put on, seemed as if they had been bewitched ; for those she wore in the day, had deprived her of any desire to eat or drink, and those she put on at night, of any inclination to sleep.

The King more affected with the grief of his daughter than all his other misfortunes, thought the best thing he could do in this extremity was to send rich presents by the great officers of the crown to the oracle of the cock. They were well received by the princess of the temple, and their presents still better ; but she told them that the cock was already gone to pay a visit to the great Caramoussal, and that it was in the environs of Mount Atlas, that they would have that satisfaction, they were come to seek for, at Fourchimena. Although the King their master was afflicted at this delay, his heart did not fail him, and only giving them time to make the proper preparations, he dispatched the same ambassadors with three hundred elephants loaded with the most magnificent painted cloth, and the finest linen in all his dominions ; and to render the thing still more agreeable in the eyes of the enchanter Caramoussal, he added his country music to it,

it, although this music, by the report of those who have heard it, is much fitter to make people mad, than to divert those who are not accustomed to it.

The prince of Trebizonde was going to tell him he knew something of it, but the other did not give him time, and going on with his story : The grandees of Astracan, having, said he, set out with their painted linen and their apes, after having coasted along Chersonesus, and crossed through Armenia, they came at last to a forest, where they had liked to have lost part of the presents they were charged with ; I have told you that three hundred elephants carried each of them a great bale of the richest painted linen in the whole world, and that at the top of each of these bales they had put an ape ; I do not know what the King their master expected the wise Caramoussal was to do with three hundred apes, but let that be as it will, he recommended to them, above all things, not to loose one of them. The forest which they were to cross, to get to the place, they were to go to, was so crouded with fallow deer, that it obliged them to have recourse to their music to get a passage ; as soon as it played, they saw them all set up a running, as if they were mad, and disappeared in a moment,

ment, more frightened, than if all the dogs, and all the huntsmen in the world, had been following them; nevertheless, this fortunate success had liked to have been followed by a dismal accident sometime after; for they were no sooner in the midst of the wood, which consisted of apples, nuts, and almond-trees, but all their apes, sprung up at one leap from the elephants, to the top of the trees, in a moment, only one excepted. This ape was the handsomest, the best behaved, and the best made of all the apes; but so melancholly, that the grantees wept more than once during the journey, on account of the grief with which he seemed overwhelmed; for far from playing his gambols, and all the tricks which his companions played, he spent the greatest part of his time in reading; and when he was interrupted by some accident, they saw him directly leaning his head upon his hands, and buried in deep thought, or his hands laid across lifting up his eyes toward heaven, fetching deep sighs, and shedding tears in so great abundance, that it was impossible for those who observed him, not to bear him company. He was then reading upon his elephant, when the others got loose in the forest, made a prodigious noise and hurly-burly that frightened every thing

thing thereabouts; the caravan of the ambassadors was obliged to stop three whole days in this wood before they could re-assemble them: For they did not quit the trees to rejoin the company, till they were surfeited of every kind of fruit, yet they did not all return; for there died three of an indigestion of almonds, and three more of a diarrhæa, caused by their cramming themselves with green apples. All that the King's envoys could do was to flay them, and stuff their skins with straw, that there might not be wanting any of the number when they should have the honour to present them to the celebrated Caramoussal. As soon as they arrived at the foot of the mountain, they sent to give advice of their arrival by a courier; and to know of the enchanter at that time, if it was his pleasure that they should continue their way, if it would be agreeable to wait upon him, or whether he rather chose they should encamp with their caravan thereabouts, while they waited for his orders, in what manner they should let him see the presents they were charged with.

The courier returned at the end of three days, and told them that Caramoussal was not at the place where he generally dwelt; that having retired to the very top of
Mount

Mount Atlas, there were none but their apes which could climb up there, which they thought proper to advertise them of, that they might take what course they thought best. The course they took was to leave their presents, and their retinue under a safe guard at the foot of the mountain, and to use their best endeavours to get to the place, whither they were informed he had retired. They continued their march fifteen days, always ascending by the most tiresome road that ever was, without finding any thing but rocks and precipices. At last, after having cursed, more than once, the crocodile who gave them so much trouble, and the preference with which they were honoured by this illustrious employ; the objects which presented themselves, and the road itself appeared less frightful, although they had continually ascended; they found little vallies watered by pleasant brooks, whose banks were embellished with flowers, they saw birds of species they had never seen before, as they ascended, and little tents spread here and there; they had six hundred mile still to ascend, and they saw nothing but the sky above them, till they met the famous Caramoussal.

He came out of a tent, larger than those we had seen as we ascended, which on one side was shaded with a vast number of orange-trees, and on the other surrounded by several machines which supported his astrolabes, telescopes, and all the instruments he made use of to observe the course of the planets. When he came out of the tent, he was accompanied by a man who wore his arm in a scarf; as they were at a loss which of the two was the person they sought, he advanced toward them, and asked them civilly what the grandees of the great king of Astracant wanted of Caramoussal. At these words they prostrated themselves before him, as they would have done before some divinity; for his presence inspired them with quite a different respect, than that kind of veneration, which the report of him spread every where, seemed to exact, they expected to see the hideous figure of an enchanter, or at least some old man with a long beard, quite bowed down with age; but they were very much astonished to see a large man, who, although in the decline of life, had a noble air, a majestic port, and was clothed in the grandest manner possible. He lifted them up immediately; they laid open their commission, the circumstances of the misfortunes upon

upon which they came to consult him, and gave him a list of the presents which they brought him. After having quietly heard them, he conducted them, before he gave them an answer, toward a part of the mountain from whence they viewed the whole sea, and from whence they might have viewed the whole land, if the sight of men had been capable of it; they were frightened at the prodigious elevation they found themselves upon, the islands which arose in the sea appeared to them like so many little black spots, and the largest vessels floating atoms. He then began to say: I am nothing less, than what most of those who only know me by report, think I merit to be; it is very true, that a knowledge acquired by long meditations, continual speculation, and perhaps the proximity of the heavenly bodies, hath given me great light in all which is most infallible in astrology; I will tell you, that even most of the oracles have less certainty in their answers, than there is in my conjectures and predictions. As for that of the cock from whence you have been sent to me, or rather advised to seek for me in these places, from henceforth there is no further question to be asked of his divi-

nity ; other cares and other business employ him.

Observe says he, the distance there is from the place where we are, to the waves, which dash against the foot of the mountain, if the king your master could get together three spinning-wheels which are dispersed in the world, it would not be impossible to make a cord, which might reach from the top of Mount Atlas, where we are, to the surface of the sea ; this work being finished, all his wishes would be accomplished, the monster would disappear for ever ; the princess his daughter would laugh, speak, and even the very spinning-wheels would spin a shift for her, finer than that she has lost, without it's depriving her of her appetite by day, or rest at night ; but as it is impossible for the King of Astracan to get into his possession all the three enchanted spinning-wheels together ; this is what I advise you to do to preserve your territories from entire desolation, and to give to the most beautiful princess in the world, what is wanting to make her the most happy and most accomplished : Which is that you publish through all the regions of the earth, that whoever will cause the princess to laugh, or overcome the crocodile in single combat, shall be recompensed by
having

having his choice, either of the adorable Mouffeline, with all the territories of the king her father, or all the forces and all the power of that king, to assist him in any other conquest he may intend. That the adventurers may be at liberty, to fight the monster when they have not succeeded in the other enterprise, for it is indifferent whether they begin with the monster or the princess; that she may be accessible to all those who ask to see her, of whatsoever figure, or condition they may be, and in fine that she does not fail to take a journey for two months every year, to expose her divine charms in the different provinces contiguous to the territories of the king her father: Go, illustrious grandees, carry to the prince who sent you, the magnificent presents he would have honoured me with; Caramoussal wants no recompence for the services he does, but the pleasure of having done them. But if the bow and arrows, says he, who wore his arm in the scarf, are among your presents, or equipage; the ambassadors who did not mind to look upon him before this discourse, turned their eyes upon him, and were ready to fall from the precipice to see him have a mouth so prodigiously large, that it did not give place to the enormity of that of king Firtimbras.

Caramoussal without being surpris'd at their astonishment, prevented the protestations the ambassadors were going to make, that they had neither bow nor arrows, and addressing himself to him who wore his arm in a scarf; it is not so near these places that one must hope to find again those arms of which you speak; then having dismissed the gentlemen of the embassy, they rejoined their caravan with less trouble than they had to get to the grand Caramoussal. As they had been absent a long time, they reviewed their elephants, the bales of painted linen, and the apes; the account answered exactly, except the afflicted ape, who had disappeared for eight days, without those whom they had left to guard the equipage being able to tell them, after what manner, and without getting any intelligence of him, though they had searched every where about. The grandees afflicted with this loss, and not being able, at least, to find his body, to stuff it with straw, as they had done those of the six others, set out, to go back to the king their master. On the sixteenth day of their being on the road, after having gone a long way about, to avoid the wood so fatal to their apes, there happened an adventure, which embarrassed them at first, although the end
afforded

afforded them a great deal of joy ; they perceived at a distance some camels escorted by a troop of armed men ; as the chiefs of this troop appeared to be of some consequence, and the camels, so carefully guarded, seemed loaded with something rare or valuable, they ordered their music to play as soon as they came within hearing. At this wretched concert, there was neither beast nor man among those whom they intended to do honour to, who was capable to withstand, but especially the camels kicked furiously, and reared up, and put every thing into disorder ; in the dreadful fright they were in, they flung upon the ground the burdens they carried, and these burdens in falling, opened several iron cages, from whence came out tygers and lions, which did not please the musicians who were senerading, for they rushed directly upon them, and it cost some of them who were not nimble enough in saving themselves, their lives.

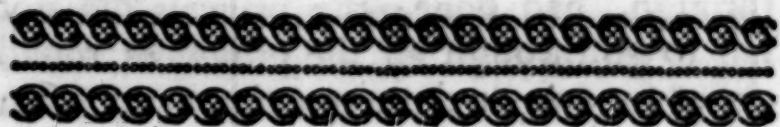
Nevertheless, the elephants put on a good countenance and the apes a very bad one ; for while the first kept these carnivorous beasts in awe by their trunks, the apes filled all the air with their frightful screams, and spoiled all the magnificent painted cloth on which they perched ; at this very moment the glory of all the apes in the world,

coming forth from behind a point of a rock, by which he was covered, appeared to the great astonishment of the grandees, he was armed with a bow and quiver filled with arrows, he chose out one for each tyger, and one for each lion, and with an infalible hit, pierced their hearts one after another; when he saw them lying on the ground, he went and drew out the arrows from their bodies, saluted the grandees, and disappeared among the rocks, as suddenly as he had appeared. I do not know in what manner the ambassadors and the escort of lions and tigers separated after this adventure; but it is known that the former, on their arrival at the court of Astracant, having informed the king their master of the answer and advice of the great Caramoussal, which they had brought in writing; the king, by advice of his council, and consent of the princess his daughter, sent to publish through the whole world, the conditions, on which it was permitted to all adventurers, to enter the lists, and aspire to the possession of the most beautiful princess under heaven, and of one of the most powerful empires on earth. As this renowned publication had spread the rumour of the beauty of the princess, still further than the frightful danger, or the singularity

larity of the two adventures she had gone through, had done; the princess did not fail to go through all the provinces round about for two or three months, every year; all those who saw her, either in her travels, or at the court of the king her father, found her beauty vastly superior to what they published of it, and many seduced by so much lustre and such brilliant hopes have fell in the trial of their adventures.

There, Seigneur, says the knight of the awl, to me, I have told you what brought us hither, and the adventure your word engages you to attempt. On finishing this recital, we found ourselves on the shore of a river, where my eyes were surprised by the most rare, and most magnificent spectacle that could be seen.





THE
HISTORY
OF
ZENEGDE.

IT is not chance which occasions me to address myself to you; it is still less the hope of finding in you that easy credulity, which makes every one believe what one would. I suspect you rather to be in the other extreme; but as I know that you are not naturally of so bad a disposition as they attribute to you, as you have a sufficient memory to retain, what is of most importance in this narrative; give me only your attention to that, and I dispense with you as to the rest, provided you make such a use as I desire of a history, which is neither made for pleasure, nor told to amuse you.

you. The adventures, it is true, are of a very ancient date, and will appear, perhaps, imaginary; but it does not signify whether you believe them or not, provided you retain them. You know, besides, how to hold your tongue, or rather you are not very fond of speaking, this is what I ask of you; for in the thing which I have to communicate to you, you will find among them some which will excite your curiosity, and others which will not carry the appearance of probability. Give me leave to caution you against both, and to impose on you for the present a silence, proof against all surprise. For it is not allowed you henceforth to mingle your discourse with mine, and the least word you interrupt me with, will deprive you of seeing me for ever. I am now going to begin to prevent your desires about what concerns me.

I am very far from being, what I appear to you, I have not been always what I now am; but I shall subsist as long as the world shall endure. You have already been witness of some effects of my power, nevertheless it is limited, but infinitely more extensive than that of mortals. Harken to me without being frightened; what you have learnt, of what is fabulous in your opinion, concerning the Cabalists, is nei-

ther entirely true, nor fictitious; since it is certain that in the ambient air, at the bottom of the earth, and in the bosom of the waters, there are certain intelligences which partake of human nature, principally in their inclination to malignity. And these invisible spirits, instead of regulating the elements which they inhabit; are often the cause of the disorders, we observe in them; since earthquakes, overflowings of rivers, storms, thunders, and whirlwinds are the effects of their caprices, and not of those natural causes, which you philosophers have only perplexed by endeavours to explain.

I am since a certain time one of these Genii, but oh ye stars! the adventure which gave me this species of immortality, was fatal to that on which depended the happiness of my life, and which costs me sharp anguish, every time the cruel remembrance is renewed. At these words lifting up her eyes to heaven, she fetched some sighs; and in spite of the effort she made to restrain them, I saw the tears run down her cheeks, and fall upon her beautiful neck, so naturally in the midst of an affecting silence, that I was on the point of keeping her company. She presently recovered herself, and having shewn me, by a very languishing look, that she was not insensible

sible to my tenderness : keep, says she, this obliging compassion to accompany this discourse, you will find in it something to exercise all the emotions of your pity, and nevertheless believe truly, what I am going to tell you of myself, as you ought, and merit by your discretion. Whether you give credit to what you are going to hear, or that you take me and my history for illusions, remember you will never be happy in abusing a confidence so advantageous to you. At these words after having looked upon me for some time with great attention, she advanced toward me, and drawing away softly one side of my peruke to speak to me in the ear, I was fain to lean myself against her in a pretty familiar manner. Her face touched mine, and it seemed to to be animated with a very lively heat, and very different from that insensibility I had accused her of diffusing upon me when she went out of the water.

Her breath was pure and sweet . . . and this divinity which I had suspected to be a little of the marshy kind, did not so much as smell of a fog. Why am not I permitted to reveal all she told me in a confidence I have so long wished for ? But she seemed to grow tired, and letting go my peruke, there would be too much restraint, says she, to
 continue

continue my discourse, so go out, and leave us alone. I turned and not seeing any person in the salon, I thought this order was addressed to me; and rising up no, says she, don't stir; I speak to some of my girls, who prattled on the chimney-piece, in the goblet of porcelain which you see. They are not the fairies which wait on me, adds she, seeing that I smiled: the three flies who are at present on the edge of the window, are the girls I speak to you of; you shall see them presently under a more agreeable figure. Then the maids of honour flew away, and their mistress continued her discourse in this manner. It is not permitted me to read, absolutely, what is in the bottom of the heart; but I know almost all its thoughts, by the sudden or violent motions which joy, terrour, hatred, or love excite. A certain number of Genii, subjected to my will, inform me of every thing that passes for a great way about; but my empire hath its limits. I make these subaltern spirits take what form I please, and it is by their ministry, that I know, for example, what passes at your court, and the character of all those which compose it. What knowledge is this, says I, to myself! and what Peace, says she: hearken to me. It is ordinary for my emissaries

faries to make their discoveries, in the form of flies ; they are in that shape more diligent and less observed. You may well suppose then, these flies who persisted in coming back as often as they were drove away, are nothing else but those kind of spies ; but my reign does not hold all the year : for as soon as the swallows disappear, it is over with me, and as if I was entirely annihilated, I don't know what becomes of me, till their return ; and then without knowing how, I find myself in my former state. There's a slight idea of what I am : I must now tell you what I was. Remember always in hearing so long a recital and full of so so many extraordinary events, that you are not allowed to interrupt it. It is twelve hundred years since I arrived at the court of At these words putting her finger upon her mouth, as I was going to interrupt her, take care, says she, it is the last time I put you in mind of it. I was, continued she, about twenty years of age, when the ambassador of the Childe-ric carried me to Troyes, then the capital of the new monarchy of the French. But for the intelligence of things which regard my adventures, it is necessary to make an abridgment of what has passed from the foundation

foundation of this monarchy, to the time of which I speak to you.

You know that the first king of France was Pharamond, or rather you believe it on the credit of histories. Him whom they mean, called himself Mellaubaudes ; and if you have an idea of him conformable to what they have said of him, either in romances, or even in more grave writers, you will pretty well deduce from what concerns his adventures, his character and figure. Mellaubaudes, whom, however, I shall call Paramond, not to disgust you with this barbarous name, was lord of a Petite Pierre, a wild place at that time, and inhabited by robbers who plundered with impunity all they found not able to resist them. Pharamond at their head, taking advantage of the disorder and revolutions which threatened the Roman empire, formed designs above his strength, but not his ambition. The hope of plunder, and inclination to licentiousness had so increased his party, that he quitted his mountains, poured down into Alsace, like a torrent, and having ravaged it, passed the Rhine, and penetrated a great way into Franconia. He found there a certain Ascarian, who having the same design as himself, could not suffer a rival to establish himself

himself in these cantons. He drove Pharamond back again beyond the Rhine, who afterward having attempted to no purpose, to make himself master of the banks on this side the river, came at length to establish himself in the countries situated between Lorrain, Franche-Comte, and Champagne; he had no great difficulty to make himself master of them. Gondioche the most powerful of those who could make head against him in these cantons, was busy in securing to himself Burgundy, which he had taken from the Romans; and far from opposing the establishment of Pharamond, he rather chose him for a neighbour, than them who were his enemies. He quickly repented of the assistance he gave him. Stilico, absolute master of the Empire of the west, by the weakness of Honorius, beginning to be alarmed at these revolts, which he had caused, to render himself necessary, sent fresh legions into Gaul to quell the murmurs, which arose against him. Curio who commanded them, attacked Gondioche who was scarcely settled in his new dominions, drove him quite out of them, and obliged him to shut himself up in the capital of the Burgundians, without Pharamond, of whom, in vain, he implored assistance, giving himself any trouble about

about him. He sent to him for the last time to reproach him for his ingratitude, and thought of nothing but defending, to the last extremity, something more precious in his eyes, than his kingdom, or even his life itself, which was inclosed within the ramparts of Dijon. Pharamond who had given time to the Romans, to weaken themselves in ruining his neighbour, feared they would turn their arms against him with the like success, if he permitted them to oppress him entirely; wherefore leaving to his son Claudio the pursuit of the conquests he had begun on the side of Champagne, he re-assembled all the forces, made forced marches against the Romans, surprised them; and having forced their camp, their defeat was so entire and so bloody, that the only prisoner they made, was the unfortunate Curio. The conqueror loaded with the spoils of the Romans, entered triumphant into the city they had delivered, surrounded with eagles and fasces, and dragging after him the Roman general, loaded with irons. The suddenness of so great a victory prevented Gondioche in his design of sharing it with him; he had only time to receive his deliverer at the gate of the city. Hitherto the acclamations and praises of a people, he had just delivered,

were

were the sole objects of his attention, but on arriving at the palace whither Gondioche had conducted him ; he saw the beautiful Rosemonde, and he was smitten with her. It was the ordinary effect which beauty produces, the memory of which is still preserved among mankind. You are about to see if his memory hath deserved to be eternized by other passages of his life. Pharamond arrived there, all covered with glory, acquired by the defeat and disgrace of the Romans. What a spectacle for a soul prepossessed with a mortal hatred against them ! Rosemonde was not insensible, he appeared in her eyes, as a hero, a god, or the most charming of mortals : Here's the description of him as he was at that time, for there remained a portrait of him at the court of Childeric when I arrived there. He was short, but very lusty ; his shoulders were high, his shape short, and his arms long ; his face was very near as his shape, far from any thing great or fierce altogether. As to his dress ; he wore a turban ornamented with three great feathers of a cock ; a cloak of green cloth, which fell down no lower than his waist, covered a little buff-coat of the same length. To this cloak was fastened a hood of violet coloured velvet, which hung between his shoulders, and he had
 little

little shamey buskin boots which only reached to the middle of his legs. There says I to myself, the little Mellaubaudes is nobly set out, and with a very august air to inspire one with love, and it must be, that the beautiful Rosemonde was not. . . . The beautiful Rosemonde, continued the nymph, (as I had said) was charmed with him, notwithstanding the ridiculous figure, you conceive from the true portrait I have drawn of him: And the soul of Pharamond susceptible enough, notwithstanding its ferocity, could not see there the most complete person in the world, in respect to beauty, without being inflamed. Gondioche observed it, but he did not think that the person of Pharamond would have the same effect upon her; he sighed with grief and jealousy, at a time that a desire of vengeance revived the hatred and resentments of Rosemonde against the Roman name: She gave a loose to herself, and arming her beautiful eyes with all their darts, and turning them toward Pharamond: King of the French, says she, crown what Rosemonde owes you to day for her liberty and life; by a gift, which will be to her scarcely less agreeable than either of them. I ask of you, the general of the Roman, to make me the arbiter of his destiny. Pharamond, who had

had given up himself to her, did not refuse her his prisoner. They brought the unfortunate Roman, whom Gondioche could not see in so disgraceful a situation without giving orders to take off his irons. Stay, Gondioche, says the fierce Rosomonde, you have too little share in the misfortune of him who put you into the condition, out of which you want to draw him, to have a right to do him this generous office: Let them shut him up, says she, in the dungeons, till I am determined upon what kind of punishment he shall suffer. The poor Curio did not degenerate at all; and bearing his disgrace and his sentence with a firmness worthy of ancient Rome, did not vouchsafe so much as to turn his eyes toward her, who had given this cruel order.

Tournaments, and festivals; which Pharamond loved to excess, were the marks of the gratitude of Gondioche; but he gave them with reluctance to a man whom he began to hate: For Rosemonde gave him the most valuable things, and did not restrain herself. Pharamond, master in the court of Gondioche, had no longer any regard for his presence; he could not bear him, and retired under a pretence of re-assembling his troops: Nevertheless, these two lovers so different in their figure, and
so

so like in their inclinations, often preferred barbarous pleasures to the tenderness of a new passion. The luxury of the Romans which had introduced into their armies what could serve for pomp and public shews, had furnished them with gladiators; they beheld the bloody combats with greediness, and Rosemonde would not have been satisfied, if they had not informed Pharamond that they had found lions and tygers in the camp of Curio. Then it was said, that the name of these cruel beasts awakened all the cruelty of inhumanity. She appeared transported with it, and lifting up her eyes to heaven, ye just Gods, cried she, I return you thanks for the means you offer me of revenging the death of mine! I have no occasion to deliberate any more, happy, if with Curio I could sacrifice all the Romans to the manes which I hope to appease by this sacrifice. I swear they should perish with him, and should have no other burial-place, but the entrails of beasts. Let him know, says she, that in three days he shall be exposed to lions, and that I only defer his death, that he may for a longer time feel the horror of the punishment which attends him. What devil, says I to myself, could possess this Fury. I was going to tell you, continued the beautiful Naid; nevertheless,
 adds

adds she smiling, you see I guess right enough upon what you are thinking; but I must have your attention a little, and digress from my subject to tell you about the inhumanity of Rosemonde.

She was the daughter of Até, who had given her in marriage to Radagaisus. These two considerable and powerful men in that part of Gaul, which extends along the Moselle, had made an insurrection against the Romans; and having correspondence in Treves, they had called in Gondioche to join them to surprise this city. The son of Stilico governed these provinces at that time, and was settled at Treves; he thoroughly seconded the design which his father had to raise troubles in the empire on this side. He was cruel and voluptuous, a mixture of qualities very proper to disgust the people who were under the Roman yoke: Nevertheless as his outrages and cruelty made him hated of every body, every place was full of his spies. He was informed of what was contriving in the city; and after having, by torture, made a thorough discovery, of the conspiracies of those he had seized, he put things into a condition to receive Até and Radagaisus. They, deceived by signs, repaired with haste to a gate which was kept open for them,
and

and entering the first, delivered themselves, imprudently, to their enemy. They were seized, and half of their troops having entered, they were shut in; and having put them all to the sword except the two chiefs, they marched after the rest, who met with the same treatment, except a small number, who escaped by the favour of the night, or the weariness of those who had killed their companions. But the cruelties which the prisoners saw themselves exposed to afterward, gave them room to envy the fate of those who were killed in the first fury of the onset. They exposed them several days as a spectacle in the amphitheatre, to the Roman soldiers, or they were devoured by the beasts, or died fighting one with another as gladiators. Nevertheless, although the son of Stilico made some miserable victims of his cruelty, he spared Até and Radegaisus to carry to Rome as a signal proof of his victory. Rosemonde at the first news of their defeat, felt the most lively grief and despair; she was so transported with it, as not to fear putting herself in the power of the most passionate of men to endeavour to soften him in their favour. The treatment those unfortunate people met with whom they had taken, made her fear something fatal to those who were the authors





thors of the revolt. She had married Radagaisus, and loved him extremely, but the affection she bore her father went still beyond that. As soon as she appeared before Stilico's son, to see her, love her and form a design to possess her, were one and the same thing to him; he lifted her up from his feet, where she had flung herself; and having given the first moments to the admiration of her beauty, and a certain respect the sex imprints, when it hath this rare advantage; he presently let her know at what price she must hope for the life of those for whom she came to intercede. The fierce Rosemonde, felt all the hatred, with which she was prejudiced against the Roman name, increase upon knowing his proposition; and forgetting the danger of her relations, and emotions of her indignation, she answered the Roman, only by all the marks of the most outrageous contempt, which only irritated his anger, and augmented his desires. He gave her the remainder of the day to consider of it, and protested that the least refusal she should make the next day to comply with his passion, should be the sentence of her husband and father; that nevertheless she should be allowed to consult both of them upon a resolution which ought to be indif-

ferent to him. It would too much lengthen my story, in this place, to tell you all that passed, and all the tender, and affecting things which were said at this sorrowful interview. The fatal time, which was allowed Rosemonde was almost expired, without her having formed any other resolution but that of dying with those she loved; an extremity less severe than that of living and being separated from them for ever. He, who was sent to know the last resolution of Rosemonde, received nothing but imprecations against his master. At this answer the administrator of the governor's will commanded the prisoners to be stript, and whipped, and then to be dragged to the amphitheatre, to be given up to the beasts. The readiness with which they obeyed him, did not give time to the afflicted Rosemonde to come to herself; she saw herself seized by the soldiers to be witness of the punishment of two persons whom she loved more than her life. Judge what a condition she was in, when she saw her father, and her husband stripped, ready to undergo all the horror of an ignominious death. She could not bear the sight of it, and just as the executioners lift up their arms to them: Stop, cried she, may I be carried to the tyrant? At these words, without

out regarding any thing, but the frightful image of the punishment which made her groan, or rather nothing seemed infamous or horrible, but the condition in which she saw what was most dear to her in the world; but while she took so odious a step to save them, the Roman entirely given up to the transports of a fortune so little expected, had forgot to suspend his former sentence; and those who were charged with the execution of his orders, too much in a hurry to obey them, did not know, that the unfortunate Rosemonde had obtained the pardon of her father and her husband. Both of them were torn to pieces by beasts, after having undergone all the infamy of the former punishment. She had not time to reflect upon the dismal and horrible situation she found herself in, upon this news. The Roman garrison went out to see this bloody spectacle in the amphitheatre, and during this time the city rose up in arms, and massacred all the Romans which remained there, and the governor had only time to escape their fury by flight. Gondioche appeared at the same time, and finding the Roman cohorts, obstinately bent upon forcing the gates of the city, which the conspirators had shut, he fell upon them, cut them in pieces, entered the city, gave it up to be

plundered by his troops, and of all the booty, keeping nothing for himself but the worst thing in it, he espoused the unworthy Rosemonde, and carried her with him to his dominions.

There's the subject of the resentments, to which she sacrificed the unfortunate Curio, as she had sworn. Pharamond not only consented to this cruelty, but applauded as piety the revenging upon an innocent person the death of a father, and a husband, she who had so well recompensed the guilty. Gondioche, nevertheless, who had forgotten them both amidst the pleasures he enjoyed in love and cruelty, had re-assembled all his troops, and marched to punish a faithless woman, and revenge himself on a perfidious person, who had assisted him with no other view but to violate the laws of hospitality, and to give him laws in his own territories; but the fortunate Pharamond defeated his troops, killed him with his own hand, made himself master of all his dominions, was received by Rosemonde, as if he had triumphed over the greatest of her enemies, and with the same hand he made bloody with the death of her husband he received his own. While these things passed among the Burgundians, the reputation of Clodio spread as far as his conquests.

conquest. He made himself master of Châlons, Rheims and Troyes, and had undertaken the strongest place the Romans possessed. So much glory raised the jealousy of Pharamond, the hatred and envy of Rosemonde. She was brought to bed of a son, doubtful whether Gondioche's, or his; she was desirous he should reign: She found Pharamond inclined to bad impressions, and all the jealousy she wanted to fill him with. Clodio received an order to suspend the progress of his arms till the arrival of his father; he did not obey, because his enemies were going to attempt the succour of a place he was on the point of taking. He forced it, and the success did not at all diminish the crime of his disobedience they charged him with. His father advanced by long marches; his last victory increased his jealousy, and Rosemonde who governed his understanding as well as his heart, had no great difficulty, to persuade him that a young insolent man, swelled with glory and prosperity, the rising sun whom the people and the soldiers adored, and who already thought he had a right to disobey his father and his king, would not be long before he would be tired of waiting for his crown. There needed no more to determine a man capable of such senti-

ments and designs of which he accused his son. Clodio, nevertheless was so far from it, that he quitted the army, and repaired with all haste to his father; how was he surprised when he saw himself put under an arrest by his order, instead of the praises and caresses he expected from him. He spoke in his justification with so much grace and boldness, that Pharamond who could not convict him, perceived his jealousy and hatred increase for his innocence and the injury he did him. It was not so with Rosemonde, her heart was changed toward him, as soon as he appeared and spoke to her. . . . The foible of her soul was glory, and she found it quite otherwise charming in a figure like that of Clodio, than she had done in Pharamond, who became odious to her, and as impetuously ruled all the emotions of her heart; she resolved to get rid of him, without considering whether that would conduct her to the completion of her desires. Fortune saved her that crime, Pharamond died of an apoplexy that very night. Rosemond drawn by her new intatuation, and full of confidence in a beauty which nothing hitherto had resisted, appeared before the eyes of Clodio, with all the charms she was mistress of, and made a merit of detesting the
in-

injustice and severity of her husband who had just expired, to make the best of so unreasonable a hurry she seemed to be in. The son of Pharamond looked upon her with admiration; but the horror he had conceived for her cruelties, the rumour of which had even come to his ears, defended him against her charms. He would not however trust himself with seeing her again; and without punishing her with the rigour they advised him to, and which all her wicked actions, of which she was accused, deserved, he contented himself with shutting her up in the wildest part of the forests of Ardena, where in the horror of a remorse, and weakness, occasioned by a long imprisonment, she ended her days miserably, little lamented in the last misfortunes of her life, and less regretted after her death. Such were the adventures and character of two persons famous, without doubt, in history; but in a manner very different from that I am about to tell you. As to Clodio, after having secured what his father had usurped or conquered in Burgundy, and disposed of things in such a manner that it was not in the power of Rosemonde's son, ever to dispute his succession to his father, he marched with great haste toward the city of Troyes, he did not

make any long stay there ; and not finding employment on that side, he carried his arms elsewhere, and made new conquests, which he did not possess in peace. The famous Aëtius, general of the Romans, began to re-establish every where the affairs of the Empire ; and Clodio, the most powerful of those who had newly established themselves upon its ruins, gave way every where, where this great general appeared at the head of his forces ; he was willing however to try his fortune near Tongres, to which place he had marched his army against this formidable enemy ; but it proved so adverse to him in a battle, where he had collected all his forces, that he abandoned to the conqueror, not only the field, but the greatest part of the country he had conquered ; and drove back into his own dominions he was obliged to stay there, at rest, several years. It was in this peaceable interval, he married Clotilda, daughter of Gondioche and Rosemonde ; she had nothing of her mother ; a great deal of good nature and modesty, and very little beauty established her merit with Clodio, who seemed at that time to avoid or fear nothing so much, as those whom beauty distinguished the most ; that taste had not always reigned in him. Troyes,
one

one of his first conquests, was the only place where he was affected by love. This city being defended to the last extremity, without accepting the most honourable conditions, was at last stormed; and Clodio in the boiling heat of youth, and the first emotions of his anger, was resolved to destroy every thing with fire and sword, when Gertrude, the governor's daughter, found favour with this irritated conqueror. She was fair, her bosom was beautiful, an extreme gracefulness accompanied her person, and in her countenance, where shined all the advantages of youth, there reigned innocence and modesty; her fearful looks which she dared not for a long time turn toward Clodio, had something so affecting in their humility, that they obtained what they asked, and that which they did not ask. Her life and liberty, with those of a people ready to experience all the desolations of war, was not all that the son of Pharamond granted her. He was amiable in his person, and covered with so much glory at his age, what heart could resist him? Gertrude, however, did not surrender for a long time; the inseparable respect which always accompanies true love, was mixed in all the marks of it, which Clodio gave to the modest Gertrude: In

the mean while the scrupulous delicacy of her sentiments did not allow her to make any returns by any way which would offend her modesty. The disproportion was great between their births and conditions ; nevertheless, the resistance of Gertrude, founded upon the nobleness of her sentiments, and the austerity of her virtue, took place of every thing. He promised to marry her as soon as he should be at his liberty, by the consent or death of his father. He departed with regret for new conquests, carrying off no favours from an adored mistress, but the hope of possessing her by lawful means, and what the most tender words, sighs and tears gave him of consolation at his departure. Gertrude seemed at the height of her wishes when her lover had at last declared he would marry her ; every thing flattered her tenderness for him, and this tenderness accorded with her honour : nevertheless in the midst of so much happiness, she appeared often overwhelmed with deep sorrow ; and in those delightful hours in which two persons who mutually love forget all the rest of the world, a dismal melancholly robbed her of those delights her heart would otherwise have felt. As soon as Clodio departed, instead of receiving those homages and respects her new
turn

turn of fortune, and the rank she now held brought her, she imposed on herself a voluntary exile, and would have only the secret pleasure of being worthy of what she refused. There was then near Troyes an extraordinary woman who passed for a magician; she was called Albosede.

This woman had fixed her dwelling in an island formed by the Seine, two leagues above Troyes; her house situated on the bank of the river, jutting out, upon a gallery supported by marble pillars, over the water; under that there were conveniences for bathing. A garden full of curious flowers, and ornamented with the most scarce plants, carefully cultivated, extended along the river. Little magnificence, but the arrangement and extraordinary propriety rendered the whole very delicious, in its simplicity. There was only one domestic with her, that was visible, and nevertheless there were all the conveniences of life without knowing how, or by whom they were served. It was in this enchanted solitude that Gertrude was desirous to get rid of the commerce of the world, during the absence of her lover; she could have only one of her women, and none but a brother whom she tenderly loved was permitted to see her. Albosede had a friendship for the father of

her guest, some were of opinion, that she had taught her magic, others that their engagements were of another nature, and that Gertrude was her daughter; which did not appear credible, since Albosede was so very deformed and ugly, nor did any body remember otherwise.

She was, as it is said, the daughter of an ancient druid very learned in astrology, who having calculated her nativity, found she would surpass all women in beauty and lightness. This last article appeared too plain; and having in vain turned, over and over again, all his books in hopes of finding himself mistaken, he always found it so, and was tempted to drown this future beauty, to spare himself the uneasiness of seeing one day a daughter arrive to that high degree of coquetry her star promised; but the druid did not know that it was in respect to her body that her favourable destiny had fixed so much lightness. In the mean time, this beauty became so excellent, that all those who saw her, were struck with amazement; but no body had a greater opinion of it than herself. Her father who knew it, judged that this conceit, was the first effect of her fatal inclination to engagements; and willing she should receive some advantage from even this weakness,
he

he warned her that even the preservation of her charms, depended upon her cruelty, and that the first intercourse of love she was engaged in, would render her as ugly as she was handsome, that the only means to avoid this misfortune was to shun all men: that, to be able to avoid them she must not give them time to speak, and that as soon as she amused herself in hearkening to them, she would find it very difficult to keep from believing them. There did not seem necessary so many lessons for a person who despised every body but herself. The danger however that she was told the correspondence with men threatened her charms with, gave her some alarm; in vain a croud of lovers every day addressed her; in vain was she the reigning toast, and in vain was her name carved on every tree; nothing she regarded but the lustre of her own fine eyes; and she knew how to get rid of this clamour of her sighing lovers, who perpetually besieged her, either by her severity or shunning them. Her respectful lovers died languishing, without making a great to do about it; but there were some bold and importunate ones who put her to some trouble. She was tired at last of being addressed so much against her inclination, and of being persecuted by the
rivals

rivals of her own beauty while she was employed in contemplating it in some calm wave. She grew so angry at it, that she renounced all the world, to enjoy quietly the unthankful pleasure of adoring herself, and wandering about in wild places. Love was offended at it, and resolved to revenge the lovers she abandoned, by the most sensible misfortune that could happen to her.

Of a thousand charms which shone in her person, the least was that of her hair; it was however of the finest colour in the world, so long and so thick that she could make it cover her body all over, when she pleased. One day while she was combing it on the bank of a river where she was bathing, a stag whiter than snow, pursued by the huntsmen, darted into the water; and while his pursuers were seeking out for a place that was fordable, he swam across the river and came and laid himself down gently by her. He appeared unable to go any further through weariness, and seemed to ask her protection by sorrowful and languishing looks. Never did any thing appear to her so beautiful or so deserving of pity. She put her hand upon him to caress and comfort him; but she no sooner touched him, but she saw him change into a man. Her surprise held but a moment;
but

but in the danger which threatened her, she had recourse to the only infallible means she thought there was of securing herself. She was almost naked, and shame adding swiftness to her usual nimbleness, she flew instead of running, but it is said, that this rash lover to whom love had lent the swiftest wings, still retained the quality of a stag, for all the nymph could do was to keep three or four steps before him. The wind blew her hair about during this precipitate course, but she was too jealous of the least of her beauties to see them so prophaned by the eyes of her follower; and flinging herself into the first wood she came to, to get out of his sight, she run into the fatal snare, she was desirous of avoiding. She had scarcely advanced some steps in it, but her fine hair laid hold of every bush in her way, every briar retained enough to make the fortune of an humble lover, but he who followed her was not enough so, to content himself with these precious spoils. She was at length stopped by the branches of a tree, where all her hair was entangled, do what she could by intreaty, threatening, and defending herself, the misfortune was, him to whom she spoke was not a looser of the opportunity; he did not love her enough to fear her, and thought her too handsome to obey

obey her. At length the cruel god of love, who was desirous of punishing her, delivered her up entirely to her destiny. I will not tell what morose people at that time said in relating this history, that she did not break her heart about this adventure, and that the misfortune did not appear to her so great but she could comfort herself upon it, if it had not cost her all her charms, but after this loss, life became odious to her, she avoided the fountains, as much as she sought after them before this horrible change and nevertheless a change which made her shed so many tears was purely imaginary.

The father of Albostede, had deceived her to make her wise, all the menances with which he had threatened her with, the loss of her beauty if she lost her innocence, were supposed misfortunes, she never glittered with more charms than since she thought she had lost them. She had not endeavoured to be undeceived; and instead of clearing it up, all those country mirrours where she had passed so many sweet moments in amusing herself were become her greatest aversion. She wept day and night, a misfortune which only subsisted in her imagination, but are there any misfortunes greater than those of this nature. The furies at length had pity on her, and desirous of
of

of relieving her, completed her ill-fortune. She met one of them in the height of her despair, who to comfort her, promised to grant her whatever gift, she should ask of her; but at the same time warned her to take care what she asked, because when once obtained, the decree was irrevocable. Alas! what new snare for the unfortunate Alboflede! could she dream of any thing else than that which continually occupied her thoughts. She was desirous . . . to be changed from head to foot, and that her figure should be rendered as different as it possibly could be. It was granted her, and she had scarcely finished speaking, when she became so frightful, that the fairy was frightened at her and run away. A little time after this metamorphosis, another fairy presented herself in her way, as she was seeking for some place to admire herself in. This fairy also offered her a gift; she would scarcely stop to form a wish, she was in so great a hurry. The favour she at length asked, was to live, in all the beauty she was in, as many years as she had hairs on her head. The little god shrugged up her shoulders, but she could not dispense with granting it. She was no sooner confirmed, as she thought, in the possession of a beauty which she had fixed the duration of, upon the
prod

prodigious quantity of hair and which she thought would return to her with her charms, that she run in a violent hurry to the first fountain, to enjoy the pleasure of seeing herself again after so long an absence : but she saw nothing but an old woman so wrinkled, and so ill-favoured, that it shocked her. This figure which represented every thing that was disgusting in decrepidness, had for all its ornament, three ugly grey hairs on the head ; she did not at first call to mind this frightful portrait ; but when she saw in it the very same action, her astonishment caused her to make, she did not doubt, at all, of her misfortune, and she was ready to fall into the water she went to admire herself in, as soon as she knew it. At length, having renewed the first expressions of grief which she had uttered on the loss of her beauty, she comforted herself a little, that she had not above three years to live in the horror of herself. Her most pleasant occupations were to count all the moments which approached to her last term, to conceal herself in the day, in the most remote caves, and to wander all night, amidst the most gloomy forests and deserts. In this miserable course of life, she at length arrived at the twelfth month of
her

her last year, and reckoned she had no more than some days to drag this odious figure, where her destiny had condemned it, when after having wandered during a very dark night, across rocks and precipices, where she in vain endeavoured to lose herself, she arrived, at length, at this same island where she has been settled ever since. She thought she saw a fire which diffused a great light all around it, that she could distinguish objects as if it had been full day. Her greatest aversion next to herself, was to light; nevertheless she was seized with so violent a curiosity of knowing from whence this proceeded, that she passed the river to find it out. She found a little negro, who wore a necklace adorned with such brilliant stones that they dazzled her; she was a long while without daring, so much as to come near him, he appeared still more ugly than she was herself. At last, overcome by an extreme desire to seize on a treasure which was only fastened by a bit of thread; she approached him, ready to faint away at his ugliness, and still more at his breath; she untied the necklace; but as she was about carrying off this valuable booty, the little monster awaked. He appeared a hundred times uglier after he had opened his eyes; she

she wanted to run away, but she had lost with her beauty all her swiftness. The Moor, without being in any flurry, for the robbery she had just committed, told her that toy was much more valuable than what she thought it; he permitted her to put it about her neck, on condition she would repass the river immediately. This condition did not seem hard to her; she had but a few days to live, and nevertheless was overjoyed to be in possession of this wonderful necklace. She entered into the water, encompassed with a thousand rays of life; but what was her astonishment, when all this was effaced by her former beauty, which she saw glittering in the water? Her joy did not last long; it was too immoderate for that. How provoked was she when the little villain proposed to her, either to restore the necklace, or to give herself to him. . . . She immediately flung this treasure, valuable as it was, at his head, full of indignation and contempt; but desirous to see herself again in the water, she groaned and turned her eyes upon the Moor. He was disagreeable from head to foot; after having stood out some time, she redeemed her beauty. Her new little husband was a great magician, but he did not know
enough

enough to annul entirely the decree of the fairies ; for as the day broke, Albostede appeared with all her ugliness. To mitigate this last affliction, the little sorcerer after having soaked the only hair of his mistress in the juice of an herb, which rendered it so strong, that nothing could break it or pull it out. He taught her his art ; she could foretel what was to happen, commanded the elements, and when he pleased she exercised the power of magick in all its extent. Employed in so much sublime knowledge, she got over by degrees, that extreme fondness which she had for her beauty ; and the little Negro, who did not trouble his head about her, but just the moment that this beauty returned, left his island and enchantments, and disappeared. But to resume the thread of my history.

Clodio succeeded his father, as I have already told you. It was six months since he was separated from his dear Gertrude, six ages for a passion like his ; she was not absent from his mind a single moment during this time ; and absence which often weakens the most faithful tenderness, more especially in the midst of great affairs, only augmented his. He set out, full of the desire of seeing her, and making
ing

ing happy her he adored ; a charm without doubt, the sweetest that can be felt in love. He fancied her at every step he approached towards her, swallowed up in grief, and languishing with impatience for his return. What pleasure to put an end to so much uneasiness by a succession of happiness ! A man possessed with such flattering ideas, generally goes on very fast : so he prevented, by his arrival, even the report of his setting out for Troyes. His surprise not to find Gertrude there, was equal to that which he thought to have caused by his unexpected presence ; none but her brother knew what was become of her. Clodio alarmed that no body could give him any news of her, caused this brother to be sought after, whom with a great deal of difficulty they found out, so much did every thing seem to conspire to make him desperate with impatience ; but when with all the earnestness, and disorder which love mixed with fear inspires, he asked him an hundred questions at once, about his sister, and when he saw him at a stand and confused, he did not doubt but she was dead, and gave himself up entirely to grief and fury. The brother of his mistress feared the effects of it, and excusing himself on account of the prohibition

prohibition she had laid him under of revealing the place of her retreat, he offered to conduct him thither. Never did so much joy succeed so cruel a situation as that which the fears of Clodio had reduced him to; they restored him to life, by assuring him, of that of his dear mistress: it was enough to procure pardon for every thing. They got ready a boat with the strongest and most expert rowers that could be found; he embarked with only his conductor, and always full of the conceit of agreeably surprising his mistress, he kept back all those whom her brother wanted to send to inform her of their arrival. Notwithstanding those who conducted the boat made it go with exceeding swiftness, it did not go fast enough to satisfy the most impatient of men. He was so transported with the hope of seeing in a few moments his charming Gertrude, that he could not contain himself, and solicited the rowers who had already gone beyond their strength, to redouble their efforts. One while he embraced the brother of his mistress, and another while, he reproached his cruelty in leaving him a moment in an uncertainty, which had nigh cost him his life; but instead of answering to his caresses and a hundred tender

der and confused questions which he asked about his sister, he obstinately persisted in being silent, and seemed to attempt every time that Clodio embraced him, to fling himself into the river with him. At last whilst the prince was wondering at the melancholly coolness and chagrin with which his caresses were received, the boat came ashore under the gallery which jutted out over the river. At the time he leaped upon the ground, he thought he heard some groans in the house; every thing alarmed his love. He called Gertrude's brother, whose getting out of the boat with a great deal of slowness and reluctance, flung him into a fresh surprise. As he advanced this moanful voice seemed to raise itself; at the end the cries were so sharp and piercing, that he did not doubt, there was some violence doing to the person from whom they proceeded. He broke open the door of the place from whence they came, and saw upon the ground his faithful Gertrude in the arms of an old woman, and by her a little infant whom she had just brought into the world. He remained immoveable at the sight of the old woman, and the infant, while the mother came to herself again, from the swooning her last pains had flung her into, faintly opened

opened her eyes. But what object struck them ! the sight of that whom she loved better than her life appeared dreadful to her in the situation she was in. A second swooning took from her the horror of these reflections, while astonishment, jealousy and fury agitated the soul of Clodio. They did not last a long while, his mistress came to herself again with new pains ; her pitiful cries, and the violent agitation they caused her, made the indignation of her lover give way to a remainder of tenderness, and he was going to assist Albosede, who was very busy in succouring her in her convulsions, when after some fresh struggles, she brought forth a companion to the little infant she had just been delivered of. This repeated testimony of her infidelity, the alteration which her countenance underwent in these torments, and the disagreeable spectacle of a disgrace happening before his eyes, erased in an instant from the soul of Clodio all the concern he had had for her. He regained his little boat, as much possessed, during his return with the fantasticalness of his adventure, as he had been with impatience in going to seek it. He contented himself with having been a dupe in the first engagement of his heart, without de-

firing to publish the shame by a useless clamour.

As he had made every thing ready to remove from places which would continually renew the idea of an adventure, he was desirous of forgetting, he saw one day Albosede in the middle of a closet, he had shut himself up to write in. The surprise which her figure and unexpected presence inspired, gave way to a kind of respect which he could not divest himself of, when she addressed him in these terms :
 “ The unfortunate Gertrude is no more ; she was innocent of the infidelity of which you believed you had seen the fullest testimonies ; but it is not permitted me to tell any more to justify her, it is reserved for time alone, to re-establish her reputation ; nevertheless be persuaded, that no man has seduced her innocence, nor triumphed over her virtue, and Clodio alone of all mortals”
 Clodio, cried the prince, bluntly interrupting him, perhaps is not acquainted with the father of the infants, at whose birth he was present : nevertheless I shall take care of them without examining who he is ; and I will tell you more, I am not insensible to the misfortune of their mother, in spite of every thing that
 ought

ought to make me erase her out of my remembrance. Forget her then, says she, since you will only think of her to abuse her memory; but learn, that what she leaves, will be, perhaps, one day arbitrator of the destiny of thine. At these words, he saw something so wonderful sparkle in her looks, as she was speaking to him, that he was obliged to turn his eyes another way, and he did not see her when he looked for her again: but let us proceed to dispatch his adventures and reign. From that time he turned all his thoughts to war, disheartened from those of love: and it was not till fifteen or twenty years after that he concluded the marriage which I have mentioned to you; and in which the affections of his heart had no concern at all; but he wanted to have successors: nevertheless he had none, though the virtuous Clotilda had brought a son and a daughter in the first years of their marriage. He passed some years in repose, tasting the sweetness of quiet, in living happily with his family. Ambition and war, kindled in all parts, drew him on to carry it every where, that he expected to reap advantage from the disorder the affairs of the empire were in at that time. Success did not always attend him

in this enterprife : the great Aëtius had stopped upon it's declension to ruin, this vast power, which it's own weight seemed to drag down, and every where, that Clodio had him to oppose, it was to his disadvantage. Nevertheless some adventurers who sought |glory or fortune came to serve under him, sure that merit would not be long without a recompence. Among those who signalized themselves, with the most distinction, he had honoured with his esteem and loaded with favours, a young man, who he was, was not known, and who never missed any opportunity of signalizing himself. His person was agreeable, and making advantage of the king's good-will toward him, his assiduity rendered him the object of his liberalities, and the envy of the courtiers ; for favour hath no bounds in her increase, nor disgrace when she begins to persecute. The name alone of this new favourite was all the knowledge they had of him, he called himself Meroveus. The king to complete his fortune, married him to his wife's eldest sister, whom he would not marry himself because she was handsome.

It was the custom of that time for the court to go to the war, where the king went ; and as the events of it are uncertain,

tain, the ladies, instead of being present at victories and triumphs, sometimes met with quite the contrary. These nuptials celebrated near Laon, had like to have been fatal to the French. Clodio advanced to cover this place which the Romans seemed to threaten. The vigilant Aëtius did not doubt but that the distance of his camp, and the rejoicings his enemies had given themselves up to, on this occasion, furnished him with an opportunity of surprising them. He was no ways deceived, and falling upon them at break of day, he found them overwhelmed with wine and sleep, without being upon their guard, or capable of defending themselves. Meroveus was the first in a condition to receive them, and running to the King's quarters at the first alarm, got together as many as he could in a hurry, disengaged him from a croud of enemies who had surrounded him; and after having saved him, was happy enough to preserve his new spouse from the worst of misfortunes: the queen fell, happily for her, into the hands of the enemy's general. She was treated with all the respect due to her character, and sent back three days after with an honourable escort. This was the last check Clodio received: Aëtius called

elsewhere for the defence of the empire, gave him time to recover himself.

The advice of Meroveus, who was as wise as he was valiant, did not a little assist Clodio in establishing a powerful monarchy in a few years. He had so advantageous an opinion of every thing which concerned his favourite, that he could not believe him, when he frankly confessed to him, that he thought his birth to be obscure, every time he spoke to him of it. I am not at all ashamed of it, Seigneur, said he to him, we are not masters of that part of our fortune; content to deserve, that my birth should be answerable to what you have raised me to, I will tell you; all that I know of it is, that an old woman horribly ugly hath brought me up in a delicious place. She drove me from thence, as soon as I was in a condition to put myself forward by my merit, or to find a glorious death in arms. The first I have carried, have been in your service; but a paper sealed up which this old woman gave me to present to you, and which I thought of too little consequence to dare to offer it you, perhaps will tell you something more about it. Clodio, looking upon him with great attention during this discourse, opened, with some discomposure, the

the paper he presented to him, and read in it these words : Meroveus, son of Gertrude, derives his birth from an immortal father : the testimony of Alboslede ought to suffice to confirm this truth.

Clodio looking upon him some moments after reading this, embraced him, and said to him, smiling, he had nothing to do about his father ; that mortal or immortal, he had not been extraordinarily well used by poor Gertrude ; but that he forgave his share of the injury from the affection he bore to so accomplished a son. His esteem and confidence in him, increased every day, and Meroveus, in effect, ruled during the last years of his master's reign ; but if he rendered them glorious by the signal advantages which extended his territories during the war, he also made them happy by a peace, which gave quiet and plenty to the subjects of his new dominion.

Clodio died at Rheims, which he had made the royal residence, having intrusted the state, and even his son to Meroveus, during the feebleness of his age. He received both these great deposits, with an intention to acquit himself by his care and fidelity of all that he owed to the memory of Clodio, but fortune soon disposed of

him otherwise. He was obliged to put himself at the head of a powerful army, to oppose the Barbarians; who, after having laid waste the lands of the empire, under the conduct of Attila, spread themselves into all the neighbouring provinces; the danger was pressing, the confidence which the troops had in the valour and conduct of Meroveus, made them despise any hazard; but they would not march against so formidable an enemy, but under a king. They despised the stupidity of Clodio's son, already of age to bear arms, and who nevertheless, basely refused to move under the command of his mother. They must have their way: Meroveus was lifted up upon a buckler in the middle of the army, and proclaimed king of the French with all the ceremonies of a military pomp. He joined his troops to those of the brave Aëtius, and these two famous generals having defeated a part of the Barbarian army near Orleans, which they had laid siege to, after having weakened him still more in many fights, joined battle at last, with the king of the Huns in the plains of Chalons, where was drawn up this innumerable multitude of combatants, and attacked him with so much valour and success, that the ground was covered

vered with a million of dead bodies. Nevertheless the widow of Clodio alarmed at the first rumour of the ingratitude and perfidy with which she accused the ambition of Meroveus, had no regard at all to the protestations he made, that he had not accepted the title of king, but to preserve it for her son. She got away with her son and daughter, without minding the tears of her sister, nor the assurances she gave her of the fidelity of her husband; nothing could satisfy her. She went to seek out Attila before his last defeat, intrusted him with the person and fortune of the prince; and after having received assurances of his chastising the usurper and re-establishing her son, she purposed to retire among the Burgundians, where the memory of Gondioche had still a party. But having heard of the defeat of Attila, when a rumour was spread that her son was killed; she determined at last, to seek an asylum with Aëtius, whose generosity she had already experienced. She repaired to the city of Aqueleia, as this great man was bringing back the Roman army that way, while Meroveus having re-established tranquility in his territories, was also upon his return to the capital of the French. He was affected at

the part, which the unjust jealousy of Clotilda had obliged him to act; but the news of the death of Clodio's son being then confirmed from all parts, he comforted himself at last in the possession of a crown, which seemed from henceforth to belong to him by the decree itself of it's first founder, as well as by the choice of the French.

From this time he had nothing more to desire of fortune; prosperity prevented his wishes, and all his schemes were attended with a happy success. His spouse brought him a successor, when he was so settled in his dominions, as to have no other felicity to desire; he visited all its provinces, having benedictions and praises every where heaped upon him. He had a mind to fix the seat of his sovereignty, during a happy tranquillity, in some place worthy of the magnificence with which he intended to embellish it. He determined at last on Troyes: he regarded this city as the place of his birth. The situation of it was not favourable; but it is the weakness of great men, to be desirous of combating with nature, and to overcome all difficulties by art and profusion, rather than to submit their pride to the counsels and propositions of others,
how

how reasonable soever they know them to be. Meroveus spent a great deal of time in a useless search after the famous Albolfede, none could bring him any news of her; he often visited this extraordinary residence, where she had given out so many oracles, and there it was, that to immortalize her memory, he displayed his magnificence, in exhausting all that art and invention could furnish to make this island the most extraordinary place then in the world. It is pretended that certain books wrote by the hand of Albolfede, were found at the time they were at work in embellishing it; that among several predictions, they contained the adventure of Gertrude, who bathing on the banks of this island, was surprised by the god of the river, that she had twins, of which Meroveus was the eldest; and that while she took care of the eldest, the father took the other. The people received it as a truth, as what was reported was to the honour of the birth of their king. But while Meroveus established Troyes, the enchanted abode of her dwelling, and the credit of an original, which the scepticks of that time treated as fabulous: let us see what became among the Romans, of the unfortunate remains of the family of

Clodio. Young Valentinian was the emperor, a prince so abandoned to all the excesses to which his bad disposition and pleasures lead him, that the virtuous Aëtius with all the authority which his services gave him over his mind, could scarcely oppose his outrages. The reception which Clotilda and his daughter found in the asylum, which this great man gave them, surpassed all their hopes. Aquileia was then the seat of the Roman empire; for since Rome had been abandoned by the weak Honorius, his successors seemed to have entirely deserted a city so long time the mistress of the universe. Aëtius neglected nothing which the magnificence and politeness of a nation, which treated others as Barbarians could contribute to alleviate the misfortune of a great queen; but to make her intirely safe, it was necessary before all things, to find out for her an asylum against a superior power. The daughter of Clodio was of uncommon beauty, so the chief care of Aëtius was to conceal her from the eyes of his master. An agreeable and magnificent house which he had distant some miles from Aquileia, was the retreat of the princesses; they were served with all the respect due to their character: and if the misfortunes
of

of Clotilda had been of another nature, it was without doubt, in this pleasant and tranquil retreat, that she would have forgot them. But she had lost a son, the object of her tenderness and her dearest hopes. She saw herself a fugitive in a court, in which her daughter, the only one remaining of the race of Clodio dared not so much as to appear, condemned to pass the prime of her days in solitude, or to commit her charms and her innocence to the most violent of men. This situation appeared so terrible to the unfortunate queen, that her haughty spirit could not bear it, and devoured with continual grief, she sunk under it at last, in the arms of a disconsolate daughter, who at so tender an age, and so deplorable a fortune, was left without any support but the generosity of a man who had formerly been the enemy of her house. The death of Clotilda sensibly affected Aëtius; but the sad condition in which she left the princess redoubled his tenderness for her, and he interested himself so much in her fortune, that he adopted her. It was not at all making her descend from the rank in which she was born; you know what a citizen of Rome was in the times of the Republick; Aëtius was a patrician; and
at

at that time of the empire; this dignity, from whence they after rose to it, was not held inferior to that of kings. He, in no wise repented of this excess of generosity; so much nobleness and virtue shone in the sentiments of this princess, that the only uneasiness of this Roman arose from seeing her merit buried in the unworthy obscurity, in which the passions of Valentinian obliged him to conceal her; but he resolved, at length, to draw her out of it. Maximus, the young senator, was the most worthy person then at court; he was in all the emperor's parties of pleasure without being concerned in the disorders into which his debaucheries plunged him. Aëtius pleased with seeing him distinguish himself in the midst of a corrupt youth, as much as he did in the hazards of war, cast his eyes upon him to inherit his immense riches, and to possess a treasure still more valuable in the dear girl he had designed for him. Maximus was sensible of his good fortune as soon as he saw her, and the daughter of Clodio saw nothing to despise in the offer of such an heart as his; time only increased the passion of one, and the tenderness and esteem of the other.

Valen-

Valentinian consented to the marriage of his favourite with a stranger; and at the earnest request of Aëtius, he even promised he would not assist at their nuptial. This honour had been sometimes fatal to Romans who married handsome wives. Never was a marriage celebrated, which bid fairer for happiness; and it is from this marriage, that the unfortunate Zeneyde is born, the last of an unfortunate blood which the rage of heaven hath not ceased to persecute. At these words, the tears began again to run down the eyes of the beautiful Zeneyde; for I was very much in doubt, whether it was she, and while so piercing a grief after so many ages, made me concerned for her, I found something so irregular in seeing myself, tête à tête, with the little daughter of the good king Clodio, that I was just upon bursting out into a loud laugh, which would have been very much out of season. I stared with all the eyes in my head, at a person, who by her age, might have been grandmother to a patriarch, and who, by her beauty and bloom, might have passed for the goddess of the spring. She immediately knew my thoughts, and continuing her discourse: the end of this history, says she, will clear up a mystery, which

which perplexes you ; but before I come to it, I shall be obliged to lengthen out my recital, by the particulars of adventures, which, in some measure, will appear digressions ; but I will endeavour, in relating them, to make them as little tedious as I can. Aëtius hoped that the favour Maximus was in, would secure his wife from the insults her beauty had to fear from the violence of Valentinian. My mother appeared at court like a new star, she even obscured the empress Eudoxia, than whom till then there had been nothing seen, which she had not outshone. But in the midst of the commendations with which this new beauty made the palace ring, Valentinian remained mute ; and the most susceptible of all men, was the only one who did not seem to trouble his head about her. Maximus praised the gods for it, but Aëtius, who knew the perfidious heart of his master, drew from thence a bad augure, and judged from that, that he should be very cautious of exposing to his sight so dangerous a beauty. My mother received with joy a proposition which struck in with her humour, and set at ease the mind of an husband she tenderly loved. She took leave of the court the day she
was

was presented there, and it was not owing to her, that her charms were not exiled at a distance from it, sufficient to save her from what they had to fear from thence. The emperor, who had been deeply smitten from the first moment he had seen her, perceived his desires and impatience increase; for with him, the first motions of a passion was always attended with a design of satisfying it. The regard he had for the service of Aëtius, had obliged him to dissemble for a time, the unjust fires this fatal interview had kindled in his mind; but after having tried all kinds of ways to make her return to court, that the solicitations of the empress herself, and his quarrelling every day with Maximus on account of his jealousy, but to as little purpose as all the rest, he let himself loose from the constraint so long a dissimulation had held him in, and was going to proceed to extremities; when he was just upon the point of going to carry her off, a freedman of Maximus, who was the depositary of his master's secrets, came to reveal a secret to Valentinian, which made him alter his design. He informed him, that my mother had given a ring to her husband, which he held so dear, that he would never part with it,
that

that they had agreed together, that she should not obey any order that was sent for her to appear at court, without seeing this pledge of their affection. It was upon this notice, that the crafty and cruel emperor formed the design of a stratagem, which succeeded but too well. The ruling passion of Maximus was play, Valentinian knew it; and having given an order privately to the most skilful in this pernicious trade, he had in his court, to engage his favourite in it, and to endeavour to reduce him so as to take up money upon his ring, they succeeded that way. The thing was difficult; he was surprised they would not play any more upon his parole, and that they refused stones of the greatest value, except a ring which he persisted in not parting with; but he was spurred on by his loss: and the emperor not being of the party, he did not suspect any trick in those he was playing against. He was no sooner deprived of it, upon condition of redeeming it after he had done playing, but he received an order from the emperor, when he was the most eager at play, to repair immediately with Aëtius to some legions encamped a day's journey from Aquileia, who they said had mutinied. Maximus fell into the
snare

snare so readily, that he went away directly. He had scarcely got out of the city, but his wife received the ring from the hands of the rascally freedman; nevertheless, in spite of this convincing testimony of her husband's will, she hesitated a long time, before she could resolve to go to meet him in a place so suspicious as was the palace of Valentinian; but every thing conspired to her misfortune. The freedman of her husband, whom she knew to be the confident of his most secret thoughts, was charged with conducting her there, and it was at Eudoxia's, he assured her, Maximus waited for her: She knew nothing of the palace: guess her astonishment, when she saw herself in the emperor's palace, instead of Eudoxia's, and found Valentinian in the place where she looked for her husband. She stared, in a fright, every where about her, but instead of that multitude which generally accompanies the master of these places, she saw nothing but a solitude which made her tremble. She was sensible she was betrayed; and wanting to retreat with precipitation, she found all the passages shut up. Valentinian endeavoured to keep her in heart; and approaching her with a profound submission, he, at first, discovered
nothing

nothing in his eyes or discourse, but tokens of the most respectful passion: this did not revive her. The perfidious wretch then employed flattery, tears, professions of love, and every thing that could gain upon the weaknets of the sex; but she conceived nothing but a fixed indignation against him. Then the tyrant assumed his real character, and the tears, intreaties, and despair to which the poor unfortunate creature abandoned herself in her turn, were as useless as her cries, and all the efforts she employed against his violence.

However Maximus having received news upon the road that every thing was quiet, where he was going, returned; and desiring to give an immediate account to the emperor of it, he was surprised to find all the doors of his palace deserted, instead of meeting with a servile crowd which generally besieged them. They were opened at the time he approached, and he saw his spouse go out. Never did the frightful Gorgona cause so much horror and surprise to appear in the eyes of those she changed into a rock, as my mother did in his, and one would have said, that this sight once so dear, was about to cause the same effect in him. He stood
astonished,

astonished, immoveable, and without recollecting himself, whilst my mother, struck as it were with a thunderbolt, to see that the first witness of her disorder was the very person from whom she would have been willing to have concealed it for ever, looked down upon the ground; and turning away her face in which despair was painted, she run from him with so much precipitation, that she was in her apartment before he recovered from his astonishment. The innocent and unfortunate princess would not give herself time to look at all the horror of her destiny; she sent to beg Aëtius to make haste to come to her, and having caused a bath to be got ready, she went into it, and cut her veins; he arrived as she began to swoon away, she had still sufficient strength to tell him the adventure, and having given him the fatal ring which had seduced her, she appeared comforted as she expired in the arms of her adopted father, in being able to repair by her death, the abuse she had innocently done to her husband. Aëtius, penetrated, himself, with so piercing a grief, was not able, for a long time, to comfort Maximus; he apprehended every thing from his impetuosity and resentment: he feared it would carry him
to

to a revenge against the person of his sovereign ; he feared, on the other side, the emperor would not stop there, and that for his own security, he would carry his injustice and tyranny to extremities against a man he had too much offended to let him live. My father dissembled his uneasiness as much as he could, he feigned at the same time to give into every thing, which his friend said to appease him ; and a little time after he carried his grief and resentment to the war, which was about to commence between the successor of Attila and the Romans.

Aëtius uttered some reproaches as he parted from his master, upon the blackness of his crime, which were not much liked. He conjured the empress to take me under her protection till his return, and then went away with Maximus ; victory according to custom accompanied him every where. But whilst he triumphed over the enemies of the empire, Valentinian ruined it. He set no bounds to his cruelties and outrages, during the absence of him whom he began to look upon as a troublesome censor of his actions. Maximus felt a secret joy at the bottom of his heart, every time he heard of it, while it cost the generous Aëtius some tears ; for
time

time had been very far from stifling in the mind of this haughty Roman the resentment of so cruel an injury, the violence which he did himself in dissembling it, augmented his implacable hatred against the tyrant. What methods did he make use of to satisfy it! and what cannot revenge do in souls it has gotten possession of! Maximus knew too well that he must not so much as think but the faithful Aëtius would be watchful over the safety of his unworthy master; but resolved either to ruin himself or to have revenge, he did not hesitate, at all, in his resolution of sacrificing his friend to the furious desire of washing out in the blood of his master the affront he had received from him. Aëtius redoubled his reproaches every letter he sent him, but those which Maximus sent to the emperor were in another stile: flattery, a charm as dangerous to villains and tyrants, as it is sometimes to heroes, was an infallible method of insinuation to persuade, that the Roman general took the liberty of censuring the imaginary faults of his emperor, only because he envied his virtues; that it was to be feared the desire of being in his place pushed him on to render his name odious to the legions, more than that tenderness

derness he affected for the liberty of the Romans and the repose of the state ; and at length, that a subject whom the soldiers adored, had it always in his power to be more than one as soon as his ambition should carry him above his fidelity. This artifice, as gross as it was, succeeded with a timid and ungrateful mind. Aëtius was recalled under pretence of a pressing danger which threatened his master, and the command of the army was delivered up to Maximus. The famous Roman no sooner arrived at court, but he was assassinated at the feet of the emperor, where he had flung himself to salute him ; the news of it presently arrived at the army ; presently a part of the legions run to revenge it, while, in Aquileia, every one rose up against Valentinian, and it was his own guards who sacrificed him to the manes of the great Aëtius and the publick safety. My father was immediately proclaimed emperor by the senate and the army. This piece of fortune could scarcely comfort him, because he could not strike himself the mortal blow into the heart of the perfidious wretch, whom he was not able to sacrifice, without involving in his destruction, the greatest and most virtuous of men. When he took possession

possession of the empire, I was then too young to be sensible of the misfortunes of my family, I was less so of the revolutions which changed at this time my fortune. I do not remember, but to have always been brought up as the daughter of the emperor, and I looked on Eudoxia as my mother. Maximus had married her a little after his being raised to the empire; it is not known whether this was done through policy or love, there were reasons in favour of both. At length, the odious name of his predecessor; and a strong inclination he had to virtue, rendered his name so agreeable to the Romans, that he enjoyed a happy tranquillity, when Childeric, the son of Meroveus came to his court. I was then instructed in the adventures of my mother, it had often caused me to shed tears, and I had conceived for Meroveus, and all his race, an aversion equal to what I had wrongfully thought it had done to ours: nevertheless prince Childeric came himself to demand me in marriage. Meroveus, the most prudent of men, wanted by the alliance of the Romans, to assure to his successor the possession of his territories which he had continually augmented since he

had the government of them. He began to feel the infirmities of age, and he foresaw that his son's inclination rather leading him to pleasure than serious business, he would have need of such a protector as the emperor of the Romans, to maintain him upon a throne less firm than powerful. Before the arrival of the young prince, I entertained those dispositions of hatred which I have just told you; and when the occasion of his journey was known, I could not support the thought of seeing myself united with blood so fatal to our family without sighing; but his presence changed these sentiments a little. His person was every way amiable, his air great and noble, his behaviour engaging and polite, his genius lively and pleasant; but all these amiable qualities could only efface out of my mind the aversion with which I was prejudiced, without producing any favourable disposition toward him.

As I was not yet twelve years old, my youth might be, perhaps, the cause that he paid no attention to a beauty with which they would already flatter me; perhaps, also, he neglected me for this only reason, because I was designed for him. Never-

vertheless his father was not sorry for his being obliged to reside at the Roman court, till my age permitted the celebration of a marriage he had very much at heart. He hoped that the character of greatness and virtue, of which the Roman name was still in possession, would leave in the mind of the prince impressions quite opposite to those he saw in him with sorrow. Childeric, not to lose time till our marriage, made his addresses every where, that he found objects worthy of his care and constancy; he every day made conquests, infidelities and jealousies; the emperor himself was not at all exempt from the alarms this dangerous stranger gave to the husbands of the most beautiful Roman women. His star, fatal to the conjugal connexion, began to disturb by its malignant influence, the happy peace which had reigned in the family of Maximus, since his marriage with Eudoxia. She had not the bloom with which she shone when she was very young, but she was still very handsome. The assiduity, and at length, the being addressed by a man of whom all the beauties disputed the conquest, were homages that flattered her vanity, perhaps more than

touched her heart. Maximus who loved her passionately, perceived it; severe railery was his talent, and he publicly said to the empress all the sharp things which his jealousy furnished him with, upon an engagement so disproportionate to her age. There is nothing that women feel so much who have not renounced their youth. She was stung to the quick, and felt already a regret in letting him succeed, in her heart, to the cruel Valentinian, who, in all his passions, had never so grossly opposed her humour. But when in the quarrels they had in private, he had the imprudence to reproach her with having given herself up to Childeric, with the same ease, she had married him, who had caused her first husband to be assassinated, her rage went to the utmost excess; but she locked it up in the bottom of her heart, resolved that this offensive reproach should cost the life of him who boasted he had made her lose her husband. She reconciled herself to Maximus, the better to be able to destroy him; there was nothing more said concerning what they had quarrelled about, all that regarded Childeric vanished from her mind, to give room for the desire of revenge in its utmost

most ardour. On the contrary she pressed to hasten our marriage, and to send back immediately, a young giddy-headed fellow who had never merited the alarm, which had been taken at him. But at this time, they received news of the death of Meroveus ; and his successor more in haste to take possession of a crown than a mistress, who was not his choice, went away in a hurry, putting off his marriage with me, till after his coronation.

It was a little time after, that the Roman empire, the subject of frequent revolutions in its decline, experienced that at length, which caused its entire ruin.

Eudoxia giving herself up to hatred, and the desire of revenging herself, under the pretence of revenging the death of a husband, communicated her design to a weak party, which subsisted, scarcely in obscurity, the unworthy remains of the companions of the debaucheries, or ministers of the cruelties of Valentinián. At this time, Ginseric, the successor of Attila, so often overcome by the great Aëtius, and at length, driven from the territories of the empire a little before the death of that famous general, having re-assembled an army of Goths and Vandals, held con-

response at Rome, and advanced, himself there. Maximus received advice of it, and at the same time he had got together his legions to oppose his designs, he was informed that having already become victorious he turned his arms toward Aquileia, and advanced thither with forced marches. At this news, the sentence pronounced by the destinies against the remains of the greatest empire that ever was, put every thing in confusion, to make the Romans yield to an enemy so despicable in their eyes. A consternation spread itself among the troops, terror in the senate, and disorder in the city: then the accomplices in the empress's scheme took their opportunity; the city being set on fire in several places, was the signal to the conspirators. They immediately stirred up the populace against Maximus, whom they accused of having delivered up Rome to the fury of the Barbarians, by his cowardice and negligence: the general cry was against him. He came nevertheless with more boldness and resolution than prudence, into the midst of so many furies. He killed with his own hand the hottest and most rash among them; but far from repressing their

their fury, they flung at him a thousand arrows. He retired into the palace to prevent his being surrounded, but he was pursued with so much obstinacy and ardour, that he fell, pierced in several places, at the feet of the inhuman Eudoxia, who advanced rather with a design to satiate and satisfy her vengeance, than to save a husband, who in vain, stretched out his arms to her. A victim sacrificed without doubt, by the justice of the gods, to the manes of the great Aëtius, and not to the expiation of the parricide of an ungrateful master, and a cruel emperor.

But Eudoxia did not long enjoy the pleasure of a barbarous revenge. Ginféric approached Aquileia, still in a commotion. It opened its gates to him, but detesting the horrid attempt which he was informed a woman was guilty of toward her husband, and trembling at the dangerous example which a people's rising up against their master gives to all the world; he entered into the capital of the Romans, as into a place taken by storm, and delivered it up to the fury, brutality and avarice of the soldiers. Nothing was spared there, except the inside of the palace, whether the king of the Vandals immediately

diately repaired. He did not vouchsafe to see the cruel Eudoxia, and a few days after they carried me with her among the retinue of Genferic. Gods! in what a situation must a creature be in the midst of horror, confusion and cries, which rang on all sides. The frightful aspect of the soldiers, who approached me to conduct me to the chariot, in which they had already put Eudoxia completed the depriving me of my senses. Happy had it been for me if I had never returned from this swooning away. The beautiful nymph appeared so affected at these words, that I was afraid I should see her in the condition she had just been speaking of. It was in vain, she wanted to go on with her discourse, her continual sighs interrupted her; and giving way to her grief after making me sensible of the trouble she was in by a very languishing look, she stretched out her hand to a string of gold and silk which was near her. I heard, as soon as she had pulled it, a sound more harmonious than from the nicest touches on the *thuorbo* or *harpicord*, while a perfumed vapour rising up, all at once, in the place where we were, deprived me of seeing any thing. At length, it dispersed, by little

tle and little, and only left an odour, which seemed to me more agreeable than any thing I had ever felt; but during this kind of mist, the goddess disappeared, the couch itself, on which she lay, did not appear any longer. Ah! it is over, says I then; since they begin to unfurnish, this palace with all its enchanted ornaments will presently vanish away, and I shall find myself alone in the midst of a meadow, or under some bush, uncertain whether I have dreamed, or truly seen, all this. But I had not time to dwell upon these reflections; a figure quite charming, appeared before my eyes at the noise of a concert of hautboys and violins, the most ravishing that could be. She who had just entered, and who, by her manner, seemed to prepare herself to dance, was masqued; her dress differed very little from those belonging to the opera, except that her petticoat was shorter before, and that all the stones in it were finer and more brilliant. As soon as she lift up her arms, and moved them to make the first step, a kind of further admiration seized me, so much grace did I find in this motion only. Gods! says I, if the face she conceals from us, is answerable to this shape, how dan-

dangerous would it be to look upon her! All the time she danced, I was so transported, that she would have been contented with the approbation I gave her, if she had remarked all the changes in my countenance, and every time I cast up my eyes towards heaven. After she had done, she disappeared, I don't know how, to make room for a new entertainment.

Three ladies entered with the tea-equipage. Those who brought the table placed it before me, and ranged themselves on each side; and the third having set down the equipage, made me a profound reverence according to her manner. For instead of bending her knees and bowing herself, she leaned her head backward, and extending her arms had like to have fallen backward. This ceremony appeared to me savage enough, and I thought at first, she was fallen into a swoon; but having set herself up again in a moment, she held her hands before me across one another. She had very black hair, sparkling eyes, and a lively air. She on my right, had hair of the most beautiful colour of fire in the world, her eyes were black, and never had red such dazzling colours; her neck and arms were whiteness

ness itself, and her looks were so lively that I found them full of gaiety and vivacity when I cast my eyes upon her, and I saw her smile as if she had known me all her life. The other was fair, and well-shaped, although she was in good plight enough; her gesture was natural and graceful, with large blue eyes, charged with an agreeable languor, a tender air, but a little serious, and her head which was negligently bent, made me judge that insensibility was not her fault. Their ornaments and dress were like those they wear at this day, if their head-dress did not appear still more elevated, and instead of ribbons, they had large aigrets put in different places, which at every motion caused the most agreeable effect in the world. After having given some attention to these three beauties, I turned my eyes to what they had set before me. It had furnished a fruitful field for description; but you dislike, if I remember, those tiresome and frivolous ornaments, which lengthen out narrations; therefore I shall not say any thing of the magnificence of an equipage, the least valuable of which were spoons of gold, enriched with large diamonds at the ends. I examined, however, with admiration, the
tea-

tea-equipage, the bowls and the goblets ; but it was rather through politeness than curiosity : I had none of that but for the princesses who kept me company. I looked at them once more, with more attention than at first, and I took notice, that each of them had a napkin upon their arm. I found in the looks of the nymph with the red hair, a reception as gracious and inviting, as that with which she had honoured me at first, the other was always in a tender languishment, and she who was before me, asked if it was agreeable that they should serve the tea. I was then sensible of my incivility, and rising up in a hurry, I made a sign, after a profound reverence, that I thanked her. Speak Sir, says she, speak without constraint ; you may in the absence of the divinity, which presides here, break silence which was imposed on you with regret, and we have not as she, the gift of reading people's thoughts, you must, if you please, explain yours ; I confess, I was overjoyed at this permission : for although I am no great talker, never any thing cost me so much as to be silent since they enjoined it me. Addressing myself then to the little brown girl who had just done speaking ;
no

nô, Madam, says I to her, I will in no wise, abuse the honours you would do me in receiving them; but I conjure you to tell me first, if I am thoroughly awake; in the second place, if taking me for a new Don Quixot, you think I would suffer myself to be waited on by ladies of your appearance; and at last, what is become of the divine person who conducted me to these places, and of her who did me the honour to dance before me. There was, answered she, a certain method of proving that all this was not a dream; it was only necessary to have cut off a finger or pulled out an eye, that they might have been restored to you in two or three days, but I did not believe, continues she smiling, that you are so obstinate in doubting what you see, to require these proofs. As for the nymph, she is at present, at Poisy; and knowing that the things which she had to tell you, would renew still more sensibly her grief, than those which she had already informed you of, she hath ordered me to finish a discourse which her tears hath so often interrupted: so that if you had rather listen to me now, than to take the refreshment she sends you, my companions will leave

me with you to obey her orders. At these words, the two ladies who had brought in the table took it away, and all that was upon it, and went out, while the handsome brown girl took a seat near me; and without thinking one moment upon what she was going to tell me, she continued the history of Zeneyde.

F I N I S.



